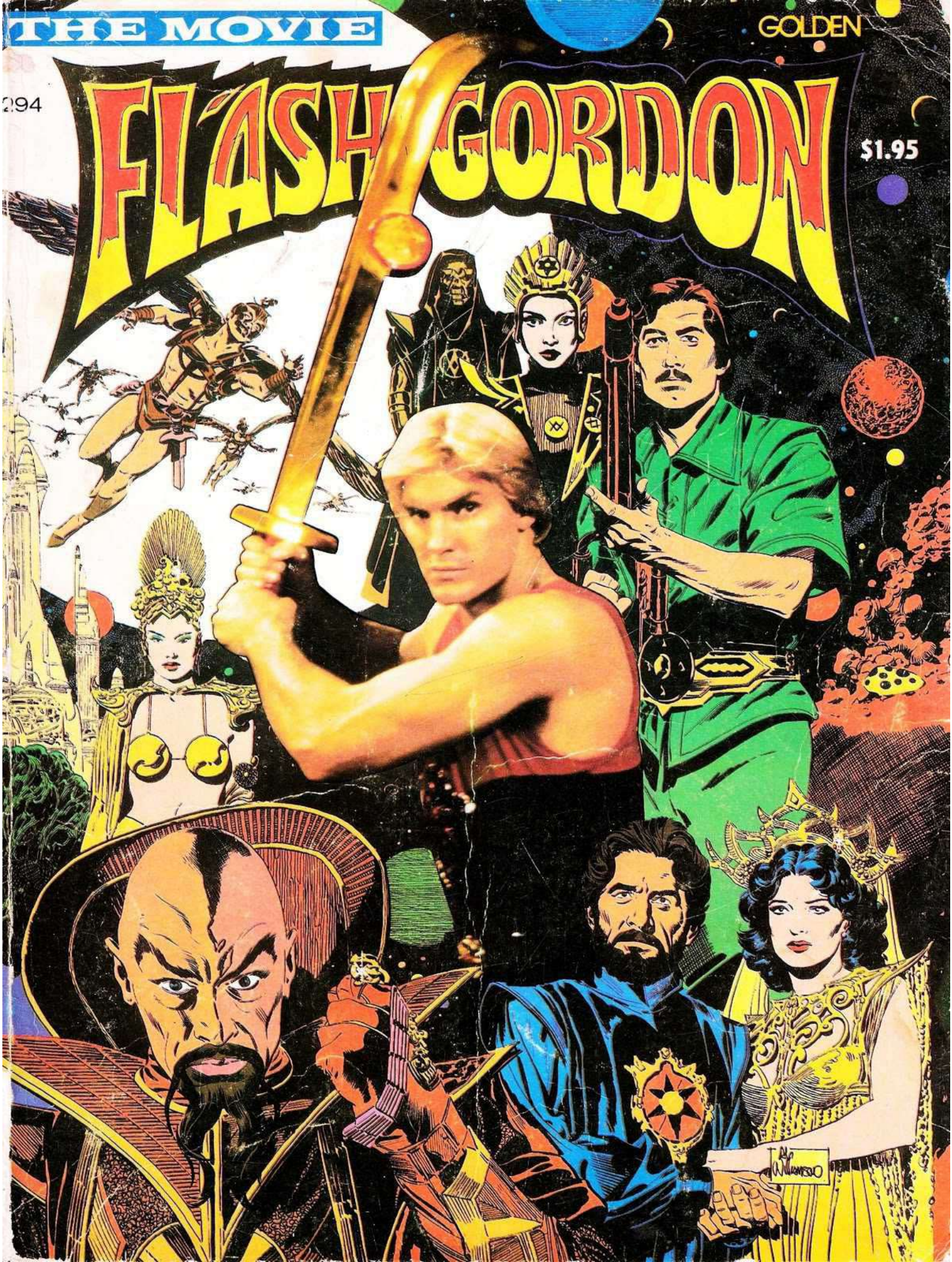
THE MOVIE

GOLDEN

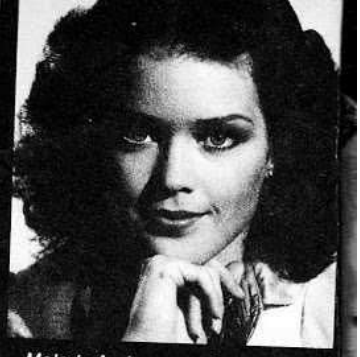
294

FLASH GORDON

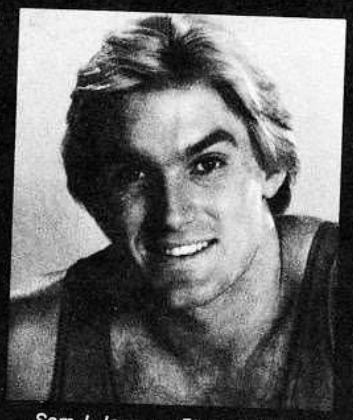
$1.95



THE CAST OF THE MOVIE FLASH GORDON



Melody Anderson as Dale Arden



Sam J. Jones as Flash Gordon

Chaim Topol as Dr. Hans Zarkov

Ornella Muti as Princess Aura

Timothy Dalton as Prince Barin

Brian Blessed as Vultan

Peter Wyngarde as Klytus

Max Von Sydow as Emperor Ming

Mariangela Melato as Kala

FLASH GORDON

Produced by DINO DE LAURENTIIS
Directed by MIKE HODGES
Screenplay by LORENZO SEMPLE, JR.
Adaptation by MICHAEL ALLIN
Based on characters created by Alex Raymond

Illustration by AL WILLIAMSON
Adaptation by Bruce Jones
Coloring by Rick Veitch

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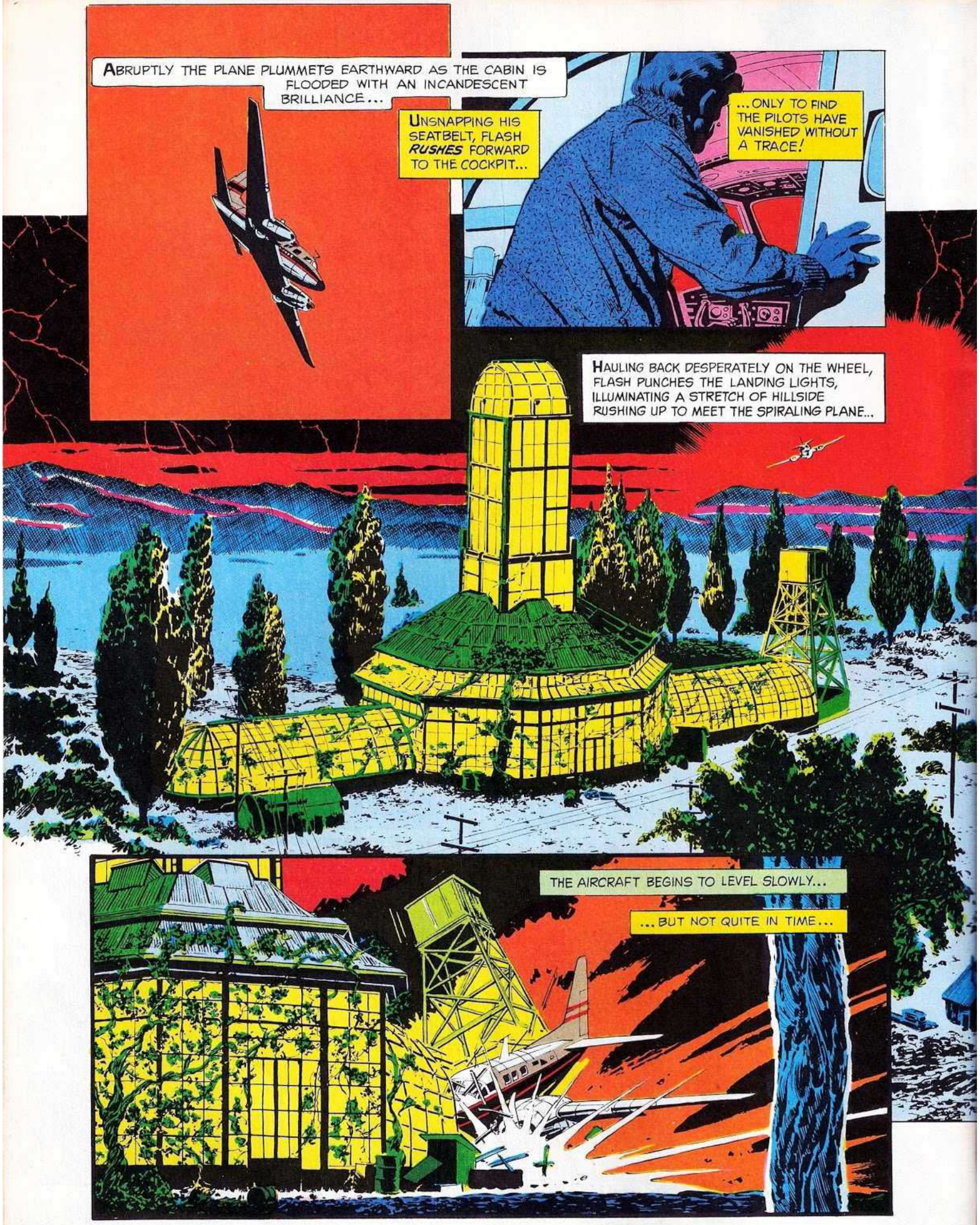
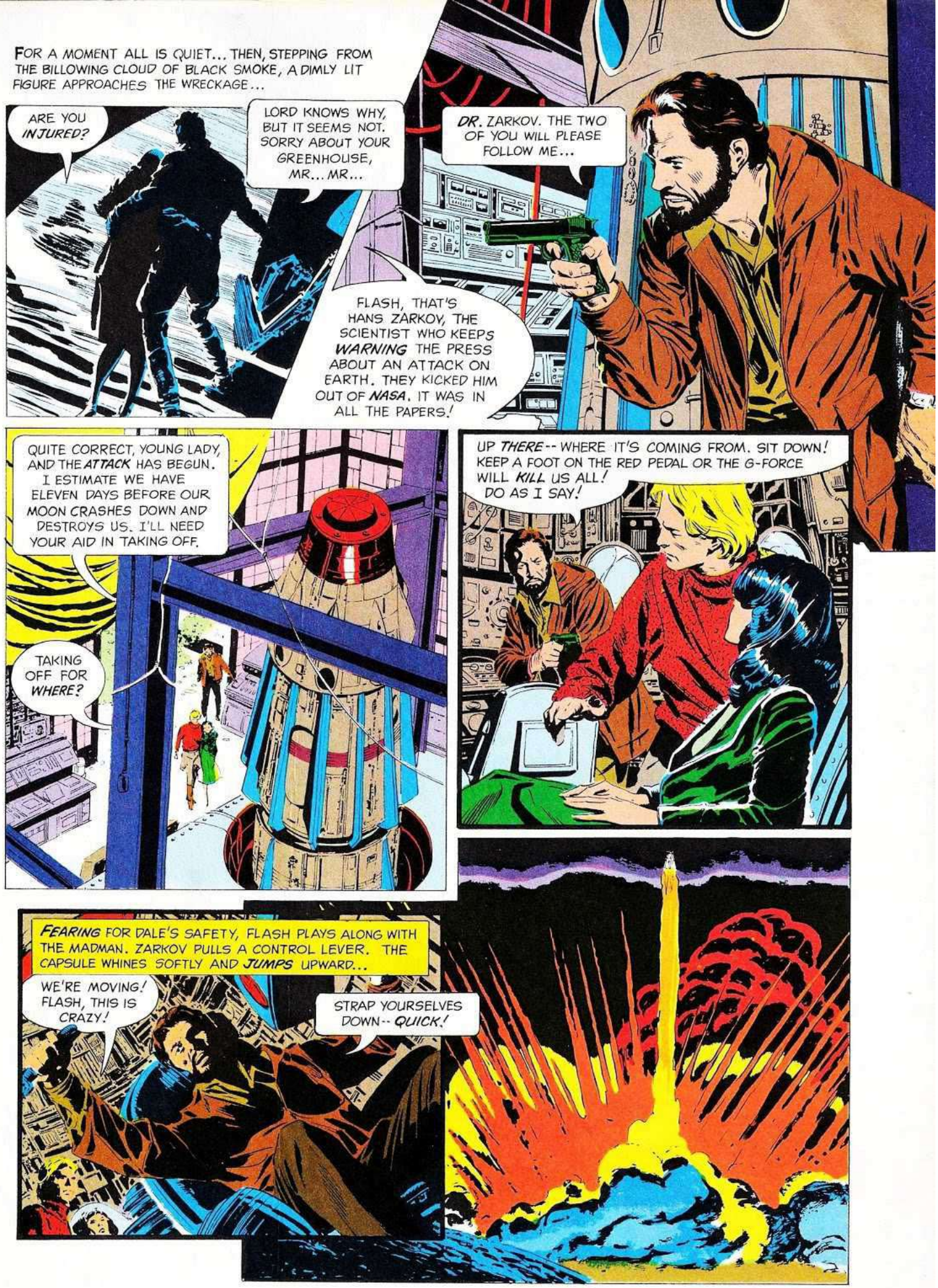
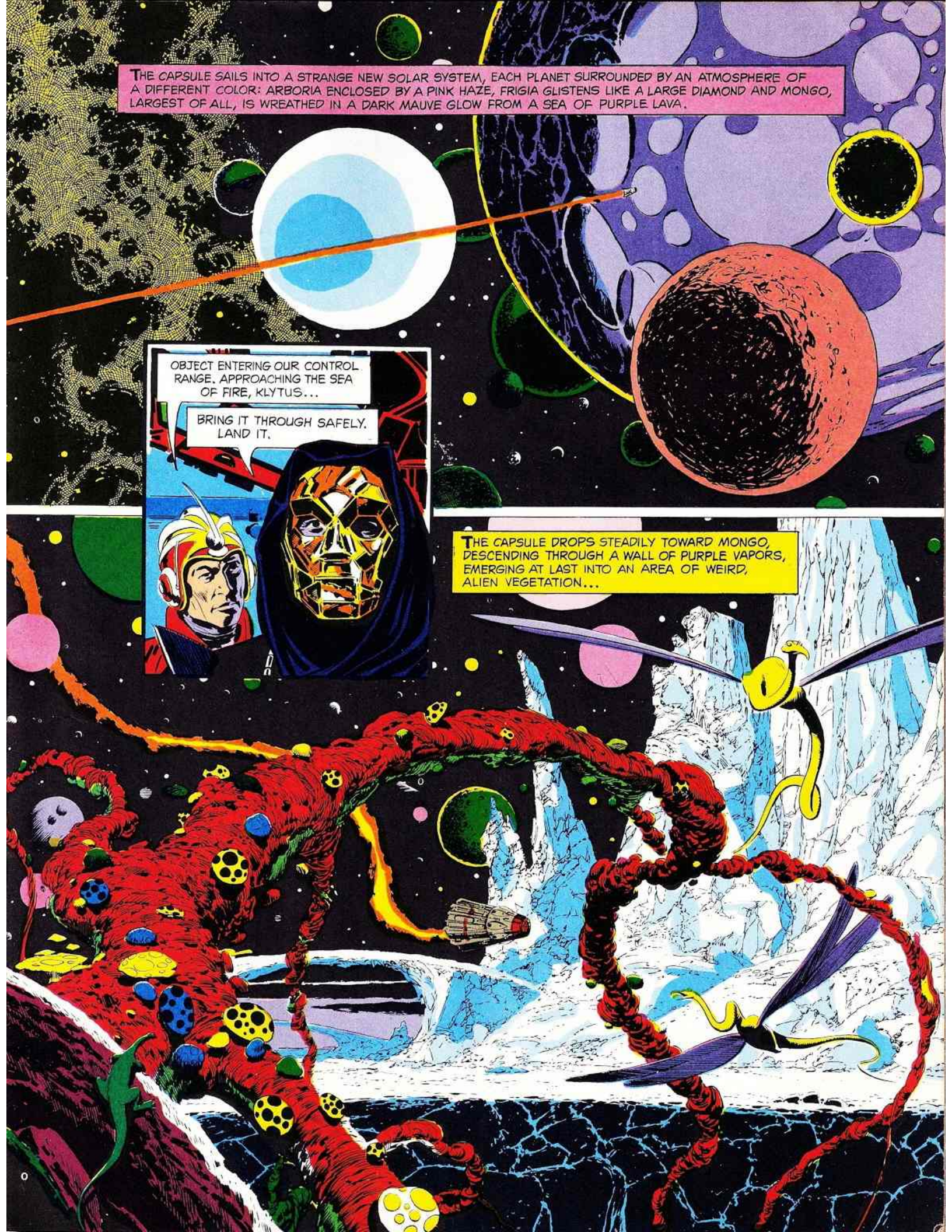
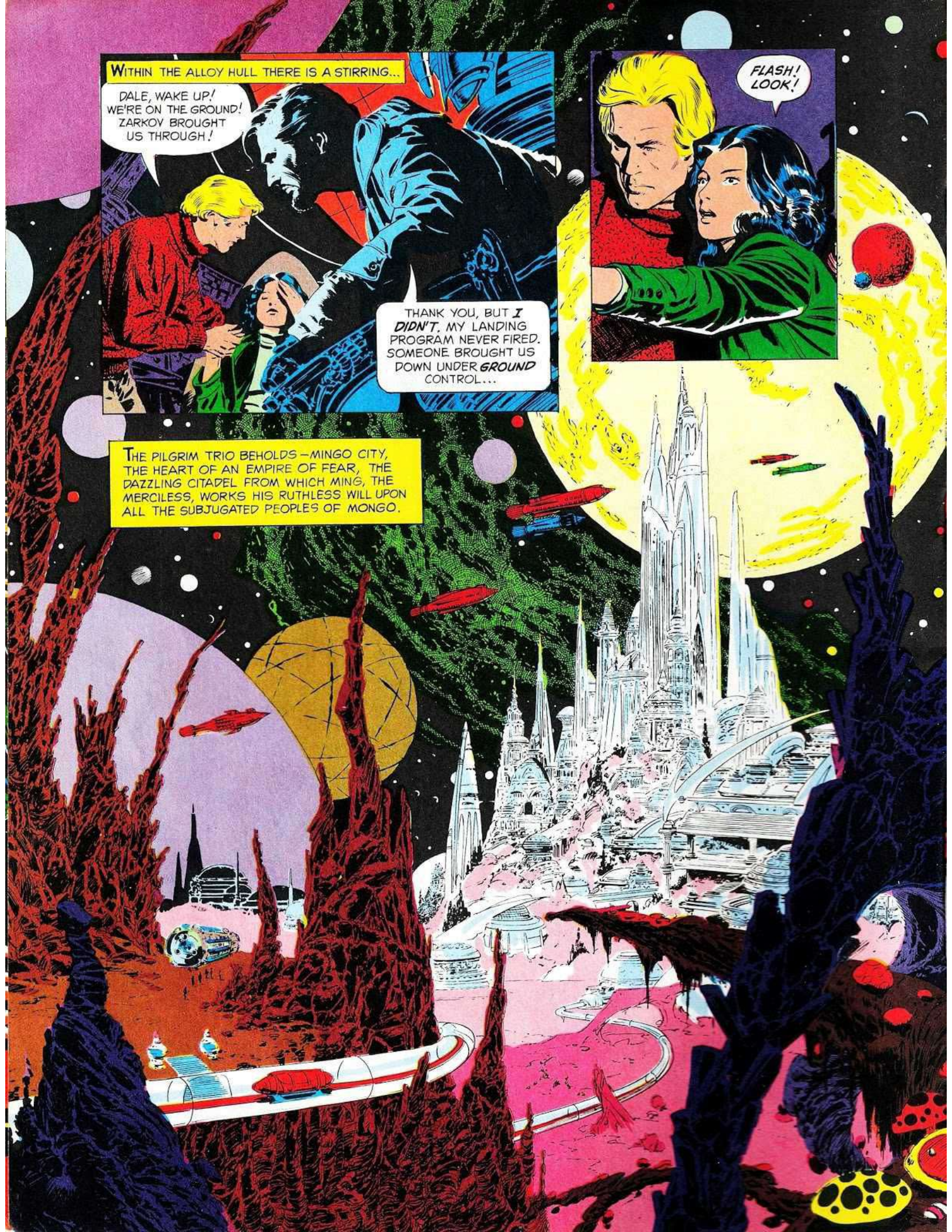
ABOVE THE ROCK-BOUND COAST OF MAINE A TWIN-ENGINED COMMERCIAL AIRLINER SKIMS SMARTLY ACROSS A FLEECY CLOUD BANK, HEADING WEST.
INSIDE THE CABIN, FLASH GORDON, HERO OF THE NEW YORK JETS, IS JOLTED FROM HIS REVERIE AS THE PLANE TAKES A SUDDEN SHARP DIP...
GOOD HEAVENS!
People
FLASH GORDON
IT'S JUST SOME TURBULENCE -- WE'LL BE THROUGH IT IN A MINUTE. MY NAME'S FLASH GORDON.
I KNOW -- I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT YOU...
People
FLASH
I'M DALE ARDEN, LADY TRAVEL AGENT AND CONFIRMED COWARD! I HATE FLYING!
ARE YOU ON VACATION, MR. GORDON -- W-WHAT'S THE MATTER?
ABOVE THE HELPLESSLY BOUNCING AIRCRAFT THE SKY IS DARKENING RAPIDLY. SLOWLY AND MENACINGLY, THE SUN TURNS BLOOD RED AS A BLACK DISC CREEPS UP OVER IT AND SPEARS OF CRIMSON LIGHTNING LANCE THE ROILING CLOUDS...


ABRUPTLY THE PLANE PLUMMETS EARTHWARD AS THE CABIN IS FLOODED WITH AN INCANDESCENT BRILLIANCE...
UNSNAPPING HIS SEATBELT, FLASH *RUSHES* FORWARD TO THE COCKPIT...
...ONLY TO FIND THE PILOTS HAVE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!
HAULING BACK DESPERATELY ON THE WHEEL, FLASH PUNCHES THE LANDING LIGHTS, ILLUMINATING A STRETCH OF HILLSIDE RUSHING UP TO MEET THE SPIRALING PLANE...
THE AIRCRAFT BEGINS TO LEVEL SLOWLY...
...BUT NOT QUITE IN TIME...

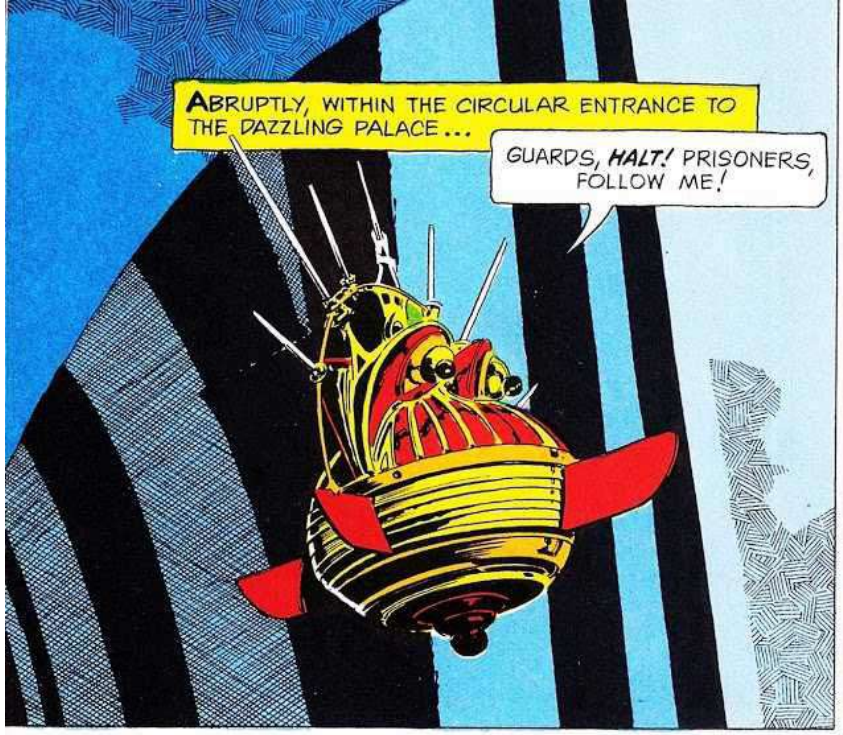

FOR A MOMENT ALL IS QUIET... THEN, STEPPING FROM THE BILLOWING CLOUD OF BLACK SMOKE, A DIMLY LIT FIGURE APPROACHES THE WRECKAGE...
ARE YOU INJURED?
LORD KNOWS WHY, BUT IT SEEMS NOT. SORRY ABOUT YOUR GREENHOUSE, MR... MR...
DR. ZARKOV. THE TWO OF YOU WILL PLEASE FOLLOW ME...
FLASH, THAT'S HANS ZARKOV, THE SCIENTIST WHO KEEPS WARNING THE PRESS ABOUT AN ATTACK ON EARTH. THEY KICKED HIM OUT OF NASA. IT WAS IN ALL THE PAPERS!
QUITE CORRECT, YOUNG LADY, AND THE ATTACK HAS BEGUN. I ESTIMATE WE HAVE ELEVEN DAYS BEFORE OUR MOON CRASHES DOWN AND DESTROYS US. I'LL NEED YOUR AID IN TAKING OFF.
TAKING OFF FOR WHERE?
UP THERE-- WHERE IT'S COMING FROM. SIT DOWN! KEEP A FOOT ON THE RED PEDAL OR THE G-FORCE WILL KILL US ALL! DO AS I SAY!
FEARING FOR DALE'S SAFETY, FLASH PLAYS ALONG WITH THE MADMAN. ZARKOV PULLS A CONTROL LEVER. THE CAPSULE WHINES SOFTLY AND JUMPS UPWARD...
WE'RE MOVING! FLASH, THIS IS CRAZY!
STRAP YOURSELVES DOWN-- QUICK!

THE THREE FIGURES WITHIN THE CAPSULE ARE FORCED FLAT AGAINST THE STRESS-CHAIRS, PINNED HELPLESSLY BY THE ENORMOUS G-FORCE AS THE CRAFT THUNDERS SKYWARD.
FRIENDSHIP -- BUILT THIS CAPSULE TO SEND OUT IN -- FRIENDSHIP -- THE END NOW -- UNLESS WE THREE CAN -- CAN --
ZARKOV BLACKS OUT -- FLASH AND DALE SOON FOLLOW... EARTH RECEDES BELOW WITH STARTLING SPEED AS THE CAPSULE ACCELERATES UPWARD...
UNKNOWN TO THE SILENT VOYAGERS, AN INCREDIBLE PHENOMENON IS TAKING PLACE AHEAD OF THEM IN SPACE: A BLACK, FUNNEL-MOUTH, LIKE THE OPEN END OF SOME COSMIC TORNADO IS MATERIALIZING OUT OF THE COSMOS, SUCKING EVERYTHING INTO ITS GAPING MAW: LIGHT, ENERGY, ASTEROIDS...
...AND DR. ZARKOV'S SPACE CAPSULE!


THE CAPSULE SAILS INTO A STRANGE NEW SOLAR SYSTEM, EACH PLANET SURROUNDED BY AN ATMOSPHERE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR: ARBORIA ENCLOSED BY A PINK HAZE, FRIGIA GLISTENS LIKE A LARGE DIAMOND AND MONGO, LARGEST OF ALL, IS WREATHED IN A DARK MAUVE GLOW FROM A SEA OF PURPLE LAVA.
OBJECT ENTERING OUR CONTROL RANGE. APPROACHING THE SEA OF FIRE, KLYTUS...
BRING IT THROUGH SAFELY. LAND IT.
THE CAPSULE DROPS STEADILY TOWARD MONGO, DESCENDING THROUGH A WALL OF PURPLE VAPORS, EMERGING AT LAST INTO AN AREA OF WEIRD, ALIEN VEGETATION...


WITHIN THE ALLOY HULL THERE IS A STIRRING...
DALE, WAKE UP! WE'RE ON THE GROUND! ZARKOV BROUGHT US THROUGH!
THANK YOU, BUT I DIDN'T. MY LANDING PROGRAM NEVER FIRED. SOMEONE BROUGHT US DOWN UNDER GROUND CONTROL...
FLASH! LOOK!
THE PILGRIM TRIO BEHOLDS—MINGO CITY, THE HEART OF AN EMPIRE OF FEAR, THE DAZZLING CITADEL FROM WHICH MING, THE MERCILESS, WORKS HIS RUTHLESS WILL UPON ALL THE SUBJUGATED PEOPLES OF MONGO.

THE THREE AWE-STRUCK EARTHLINGS CLIMB FROM THE DOWNED CAPSULE AND FACE THE OTHER-WORLD CREATURES...
WE'RE FROM EARTH. FRIENDS.
SILENCE! YOU ARE PRISONERS OF MING! YOU WILL COME WITH US! IF YOU DISOBEY YOU WILL PERISH!
THAT SOUNDED FINAL.
BEST PLAY ALONG WITH THEM, FLASH. WE'RE OUTNUMBERED.
JUST A BIT.
ORDERED INTO THE RAPID-TRANSIT TUBE THAT CONNECTS TO THE FABULOUS CITY, FLASH, DALE AND ZARKOV ARE WHISKED INTO THE CENTER OF THE WONDROUS METROPOLIS...
AMAZING TECHNOLOGY! I WAS MAD TO FORGET A CAMERA.
WHERE WOULD YOU GET YOUR FILM DEVELOPED, DOCTOR?
AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT LINES OF EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT! AMAZING!



HOLDING THE PISTOL MAGNETICALLY, THE STRANGE GLOBE SOARS UPWARD ONCE MORE AND CONTINUES DOWN THE MARBLE HALL...

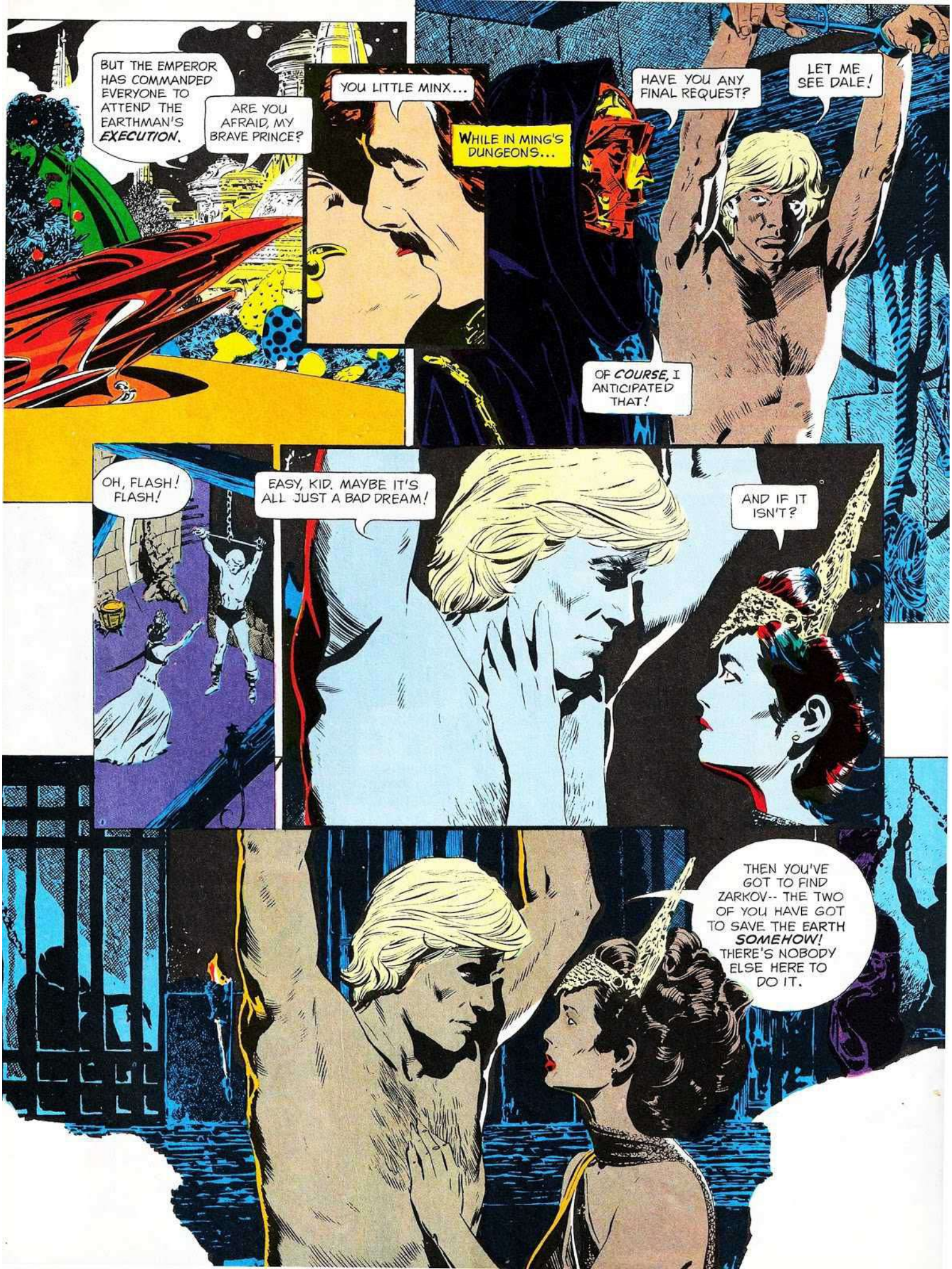
...TO THE MAIN PALACE HALL, WHEN...

HAIL, MING! RULER OF THE UNIVERSE!

FLASH AND HIS FRIENDS ARE LED FORWARD UNDER THE WATCHFUL "GAZE" OF THE MYSTERIOUS GLOBE...
...PAST *VULTAN,* KING OF THE HAWKMAN...
...*PRINCE BARIN,* LEADER OF THE TREEMEN...
...AND STAND AT LAST BEFORE THE CRUEL EYES OF MING THE MERCILESS, RULER OF ALL MONGO!
PATHETIC EARTHLINGS-- HURLING YOUR BODIES OUT INTO THE VOID WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST INKLING OF WHAT IS OUT HERE!
SHALL I ORDER THEIR *DEATH* IMMEDIATELY, YOUR HIGHNESS?
FROM THE SHADOWS BEHIND THE MALIGNANT RULER...
DON'T KILL THE FAIR-HAIRED ONE YET, FATHER. I *WANT* HIM.
OH? AND WHAT WOULD YOUR PRINCE BARIN SAY, MY DEAR?
I CAN HANDLE BARIN...

REALLY, AURA, YOUR APPETITES ARE TOO DANGEROUS...
BRING THE EARTHWOMAN TO ME!
FORGET IT, MING! DALE'S WITH ME!
HOW GALLANT WE ARE! LET'S JUST SEE HOW GALLANT...
GUARDS! DESTROY HIM!
FROM THE DARKEST RECESSES OF THE PALACE A THRONG OF HULKING BRUTES RUSHES TOWARD FLASH. DALE SCREAMS A WARNING AS THE FIRST OF THEM WRAPS A STEEL-MUSCLED ARM ABOUT THE BLONDE ATHLETE'S THROAT...
BUT TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF THE CROWD, THIS EARTHMAN DOES NOT COWER IN TERROR... QUITE THE CONTRARY...

FLASH DARTS LIKE A LITHE WHIRLWIND AMONG MING'S SLUGGISH GOONS, SCORING A VICTORY WITH EACH LIGHTNING BLOW OF HIS CRUSHING FISTS...
UNTIL THE LAST ATTACKER FALLS...
...AND THE VICTOR STANDS ALONE AMONG THE VANQUISHED!
IMPRESSIVE...YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO LIVE, EARTHMAN...
...UNTIL YOUR PUBLIC EXECUTION THIS EVENING!
LATER THAT NIGHT...
OH, GO AWAY, BARIN!
YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE, AURA!
FLY BACK TO YOUR KINGDOM--YOU MAY SEE ME SOONER THAN YOU THINK.
YOU'LL COME TO ARBORIA?
IF YOU FLY THERE TONIGHT--RIGHT NOW!

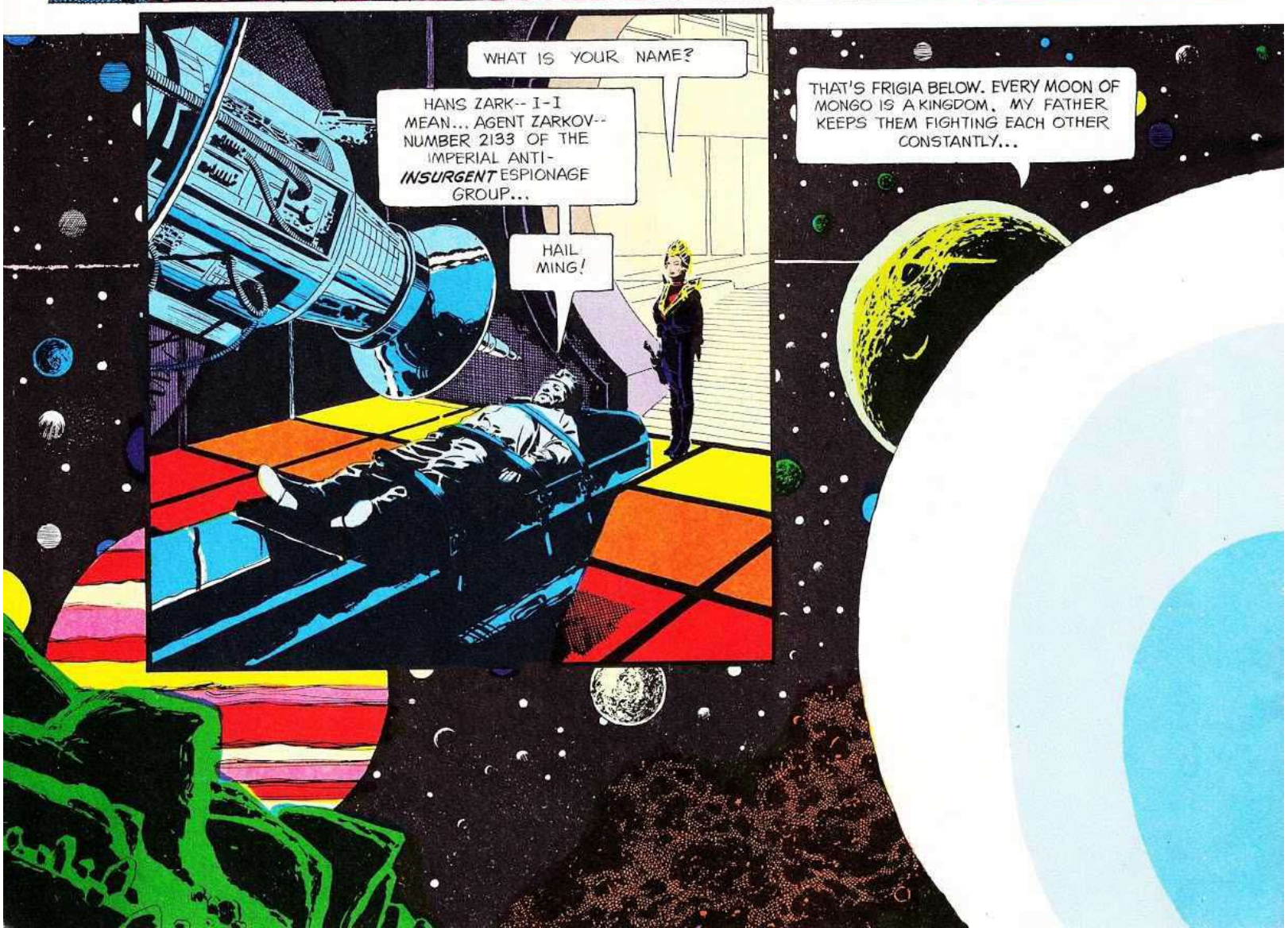

BUT THE EMPEROR HAS COMMANDED EVERYONE TO ATTEND THE EARTHMAN'S *EXECUTION*.
ARE YOU AFRAID, MY BRAVE PRINCE?
YOU LITTLE MINX...
WHILE IN MING'S DUNGEONS...
HAVE YOU ANY FINAL REQUEST?
LET ME SEE DALE!
OF *COURSE*, I ANTICIPATED THAT!
OH, FLASH! FLASH!
EASY, KID. MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST A BAD DREAM!
AND IF IT ISN'T?
THEN YOU'VE GOT TO FIND ZARKOV-- THE TWO OF YOU HAVE GOT TO SAVE THE EARTH *SOMEHOW!* THERE'S NOBODY ELSE HERE TO DO IT.

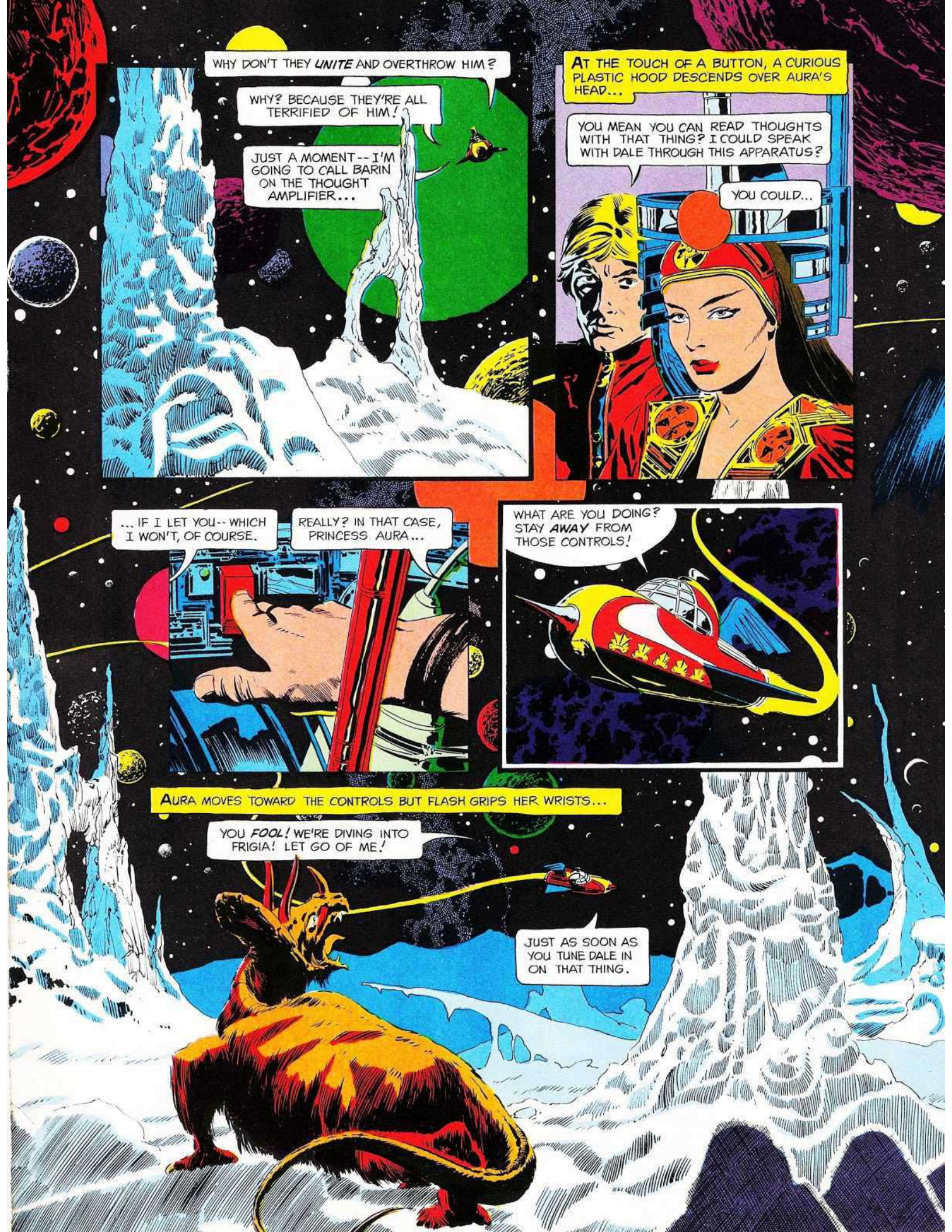
MIDNIGHT...
DALE AND ZARKOV ARE FORCED TO WITNESS THE EXECUTION PROCEDURES...
SEEING THE DREAD AND TERROR IN DALE'S EYES, FLASH MAKES A DESPERATE EFFORT TO BREAK FREE... BUT IS OVERPOWERED BY AN INJECTION FROM MING'S PHYSICIAN...
DRUGGED, FLASH IS STRAPPED TO THE EXECUTION CHAIR...
FROM THE TERRACE WINDOW, MING SIGNALS...
A NOXIOUS, GREEN VAPOR BILLOWS UP AROUND FLASH'S BODY. FOR A BRIEF MOMENT HE STRUGGLES VIOLENTLY--BUT IS OVERCOME...
DALE UTTERS A WEAK CRY AND FAINTS IN ZARKOV'S ARMS...

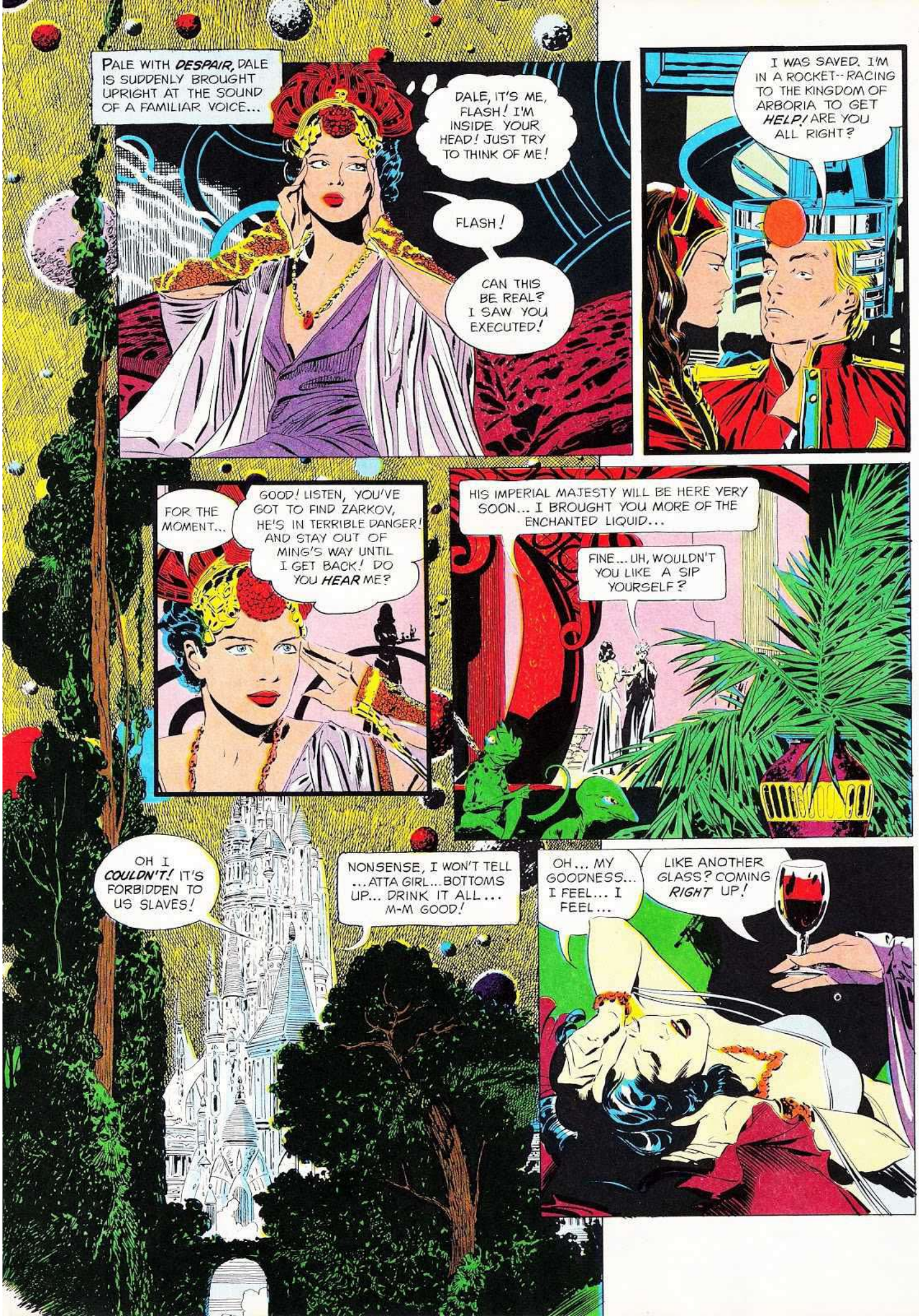
BUT THE HEADSTRONG AURA IS ACCUSTOMED TO GETTING WHAT SHE WANTS. SHE WANTS FLASH, AND HAS CONSPIRED WITH THE IMPERIAL PHYSICIAN WHOSE INJECTION HAS IMMUNIZED FLASH AGAINST THE EXECUTIONER'S GAS, WHILE INDUCING A DEATH-SIMULATING TRANCE.
HURRY!
I'M A FOOL FOR YOU, AURA. IF YOUR FATHER FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS --
GOOD! NOW LEAVE US!
FLASH GORDON
EARTHLING
EXECUTED BY
MING
WH-WHAT HAPPENED? DALE... ZARKOV...
--ARE SAFE FOR NOW. HURRY! PUT ON THIS UNIFORM, AND COME WITH ME! WE'RE GOING TO THE MOON OF ARBORIA!
WHAT'S IN ARBORIA?
PRINCE BARIN. HE CAN HELP YOU -- HE'LL DO ANYTHING I ASK. TRUST ME!
WAIT A SECOND--
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?
EMPTYING YOUR MIND, DOCTOR...
ZARKOV!
THROUGH THE CIRCULAR WINDOW, FLASH WITNESSES A SIGHT IN THE PALACE LABORATORY THAT FREEZES HIS BLOOD...

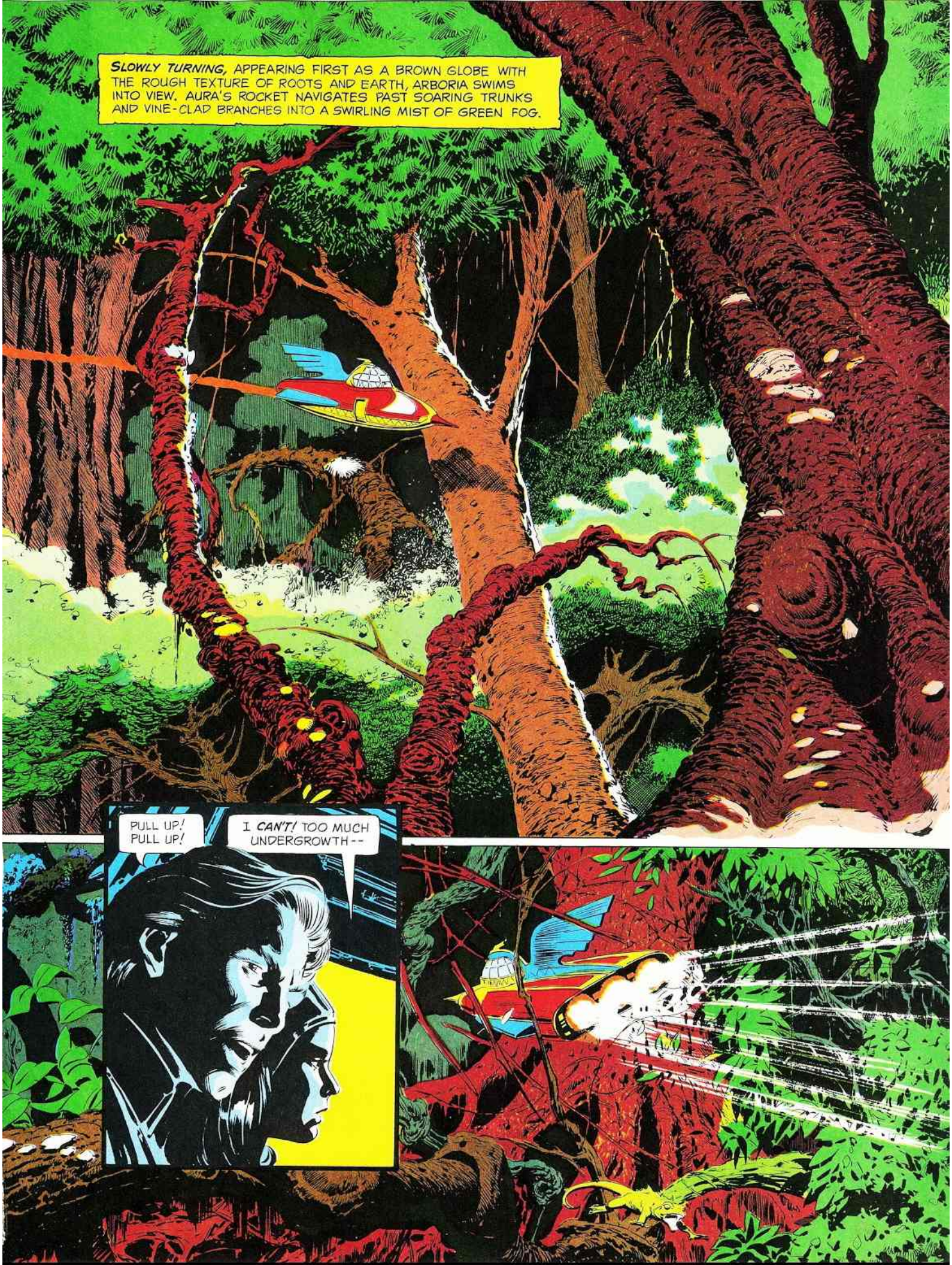
PROCEED...
NO-- I BEG YOU -- NOT MY MIND!
BEGIN THE PROGRAMMING...
PROCEED TO LEVEL SIX-- I WANT HIS MIND COMPLETELY IN MY POWER!
POWERLESS TO ASSIST ZARKOV, FLASH MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I CAN FLY ONE OF THESE THINGS?
TRUST ME.
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT.
WITHIN THE SHIP, AURA PASSES HER HAND OVER A GLOWING CONTROL PANEL. THE SLEEK SPACECRAFT TREMBLES, THEN LEAPS SKYWARD!

WHILE IN MING'S BEDCHAMBER...
DRINK THIS...
WHAT IS IT, HEDONIA?
IT HAS NO NAME. IT WILL MAKE YOUR NIGHT WITH MING MORE BEARABLE...
WILL IT MAKE ME FORGET?
NO... BUT IT WILL MAKE YOU NOT MIND REMEMBERING...


WHAT IS YOUR NAME?
HANS ZARK-- I-I MEAN... AGENT ZARKOV-- NUMBER 2133 OF THE IMPERIAL ANTI-INSURGENT ESPIONAGE GROUP...
HAIL MING!
THAT'S FRIGIA BELOW. EVERY MOON OF MONGO IS A KINGDOM. MY FATHER KEEPS THEM FIGHTING EACH OTHER CONSTANTLY...


WHY DON'T THEY UNITE AND OVERTHROW HIM?
WHY? BECAUSE THEY'RE ALL TERRIFIED OF HIM!
JUST A MOMENT -- I'M GOING TO CALL BARIN ON THE THOUGHT AMPLIFIER...
AT THE TOUCH OF A BUTTON, A CURIOUS PLASTIC HOOD DESCENDS OVER AURA'S HEAD...
YOU MEAN YOU CAN READ THOUGHTS WITH THAT THING? I COULD SPEAK WITH DALE THROUGH THIS APPARATUS?
YOU COULD...
... IF I LET YOU -- WHICH I WON'T, OF COURSE.
REALLY? IN THAT CASE, PRINCESS AURA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STAY AWAY FROM THOSE CONTROLS!
AURA MOVES TOWARD THE CONTROLS BUT FLASH GRIPS HER WRISTS...
YOU FOOL! WE'RE DIVING INTO FRIGIA! LET GO OF ME!
JUST AS SOON AS YOU TUNE DALE IN ON THAT THING.

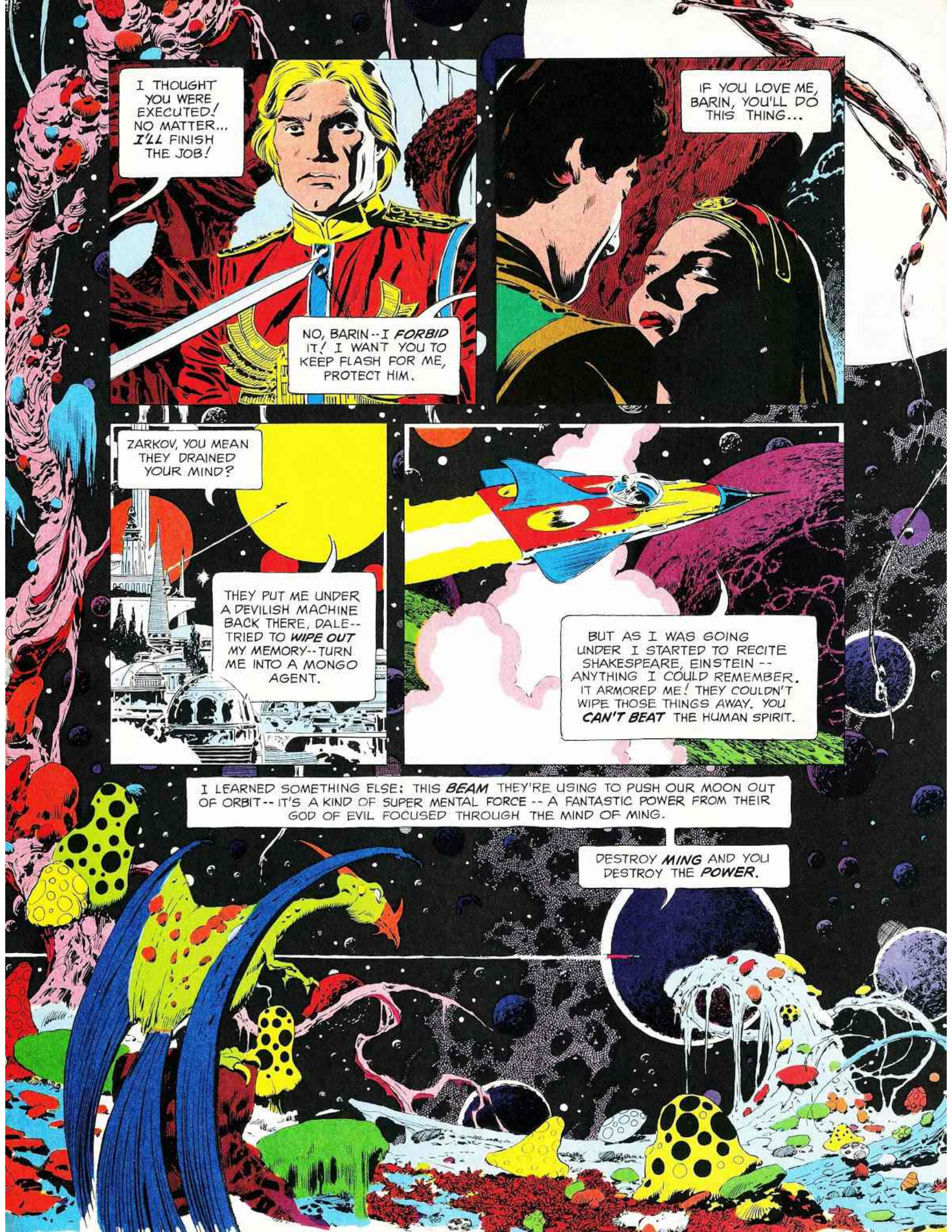

PALE WITH DESPAIR, DALE IS SUDDENLY BROUGHT UPRIGHT AT THE SOUND OF A FAMILIAR VOICE...
DALE, IT'S ME, FLASH! I'M INSIDE YOUR HEAD! JUST TRY TO THINK OF ME!
FLASH!
CAN THIS BE REAL? I SAW YOU EXECUTED!
I WAS SAVED. I'M IN A ROCKET--RACING TO THE KINGDOM OF ARBORIA TO GET HELP! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
FOR THE MOMENT...
GOOD! LISTEN, YOU'VE GOT TO FIND ZARKOV, HE'S IN TERRIBLE DANGER! AND STAY OUT OF MING'S WAY UNTIL I GET BACK! DO YOU HEAR ME?
HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY WILL BE HERE VERY SOON... I BROUGHT YOU MORE OF THE ENCHANTED LIQUID...
FINE... UH, WOULDN'T YOU LIKE A SIP YOURSELF?
OH I COULDN'T! IT'S FORBIDDEN TO US SLAVES!
NONSENSE, I WON'T TELL ...ATTA GIRL... BOTTOMS UP... DRINK IT ALL... M-M GOOD!
OH... MY GOODNESS... I FEEL... I FEEL...
LIKE ANOTHER GLASS? COMING RIGHT UP!


SLOWLY TURNING, APPEARING FIRST AS A BROWN GLOBE WITH THE ROUGH TEXTURE OF ROOTS AND EARTH, ARBORIA SWIMS INTO VIEW. AURA'S ROCKET NAVIGATES PAST SOARING TRUNKS AND VINE-CLAD BRANCHES INTO A SWIRLING MIST OF GREEN FOG.
PULL UP! PULL UP!
I CAN'T! TOO MUCH UNDERGROWTH--

WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS?
WHILE NOT FAR FROM THE ENRAGED MING,
EARTHLING--HALT!
HER HEART IN HER MOUTH, DALE HESITATES ONLY A MOMENT--THEN--

AS MING'S GUARDS FALL UNDER DALE'S FIRE, A SHADOWY FIGURE APPEARS BEHIND HER.
ZARKOV!
EASY, GIRL... YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE SEEN A GHOST.
ZARKOV, FLASH IS ALIVE! I TALKED TO HIM BY TELEPATHY -- HE'S ON HIS WAY TO ARBORIA TO GET HELP!
INCREDIBLE! WHAT GOOD NEWS! QUICKLY, FOLLOW ME, I KNOW A SAFE WAY OUT!
I HAVE LOCATED DALE ARDEN, YOUR MAJESTY. SHE IS NOW UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF AGENT ZARKOV. AND SOMETHING MORE -- FLASH GORDON IS STILL ALIVE!
FIND FLASH GORDON! AND FIND THE TRAITOR WHO HELPED HIM ESCAPE! STOP AT NOTHING!

WHILE IN ARBORIA...
WHAT IS IT, AURA? IS THAT BARIN?
YES, IT'S A SECRET TEMPLE... A YOUNG MAN IS BEING INITIATED! LISTEN!
I AM OF AGE NOW, GREEN FATHER. I ASKED FOR THE TEST OF MANHOOD.
CHOOSE YOUR PASSAGE INTO THIS WORLD OR THE NEXT. MAY ARBOR GUIDE YOU.
THE YOUNG TREEMEN REACHES OUT HESITANTLY...
--THEN PLUNGES HIS HAND INSIDE THE STUMP...
AGH!
PLEASE!! DO NOT LET ME SUFFER IN AGONY! END IT NOW!!
IN THE NEXT MOMENT, THE YOUNG MAN LIES PALE AND STILL AT PRINCE BARIN'S FEET...
WELL DONE, BARIN.
AURA! YOU CAME! ...AND THE EARTHMAN?


I THOUGHT YOU WERE EXECUTED! NO MATTER... I'LL FINISH THE JOB!
NO, BARIN--I FORBID IT! I WANT YOU TO KEEP FLASH FOR ME, PROTECT HIM.
IF YOU LOVE ME, BARIN, YOU'LL DO THIS THING...
ZARKOV, YOU MEAN THEY DRAINED YOUR MIND?
THEY PUT ME UNDER A DEVILISH MACHINE BACK THERE, DALE--TRIED TO WIPE OUT MY MEMORY--TURN ME INTO A MONGO AGENT.
BUT AS I WAS GOING UNDER I STARTED TO RECITE SHAKESPEARE, EINSTEIN -- ANYTHING I COULD REMEMBER. IT ARMORED ME! THEY COULDN'T WIPE THOSE THINGS AWAY. YOU CAN'T BEAT THE HUMAN SPIRIT.
I LEARNED SOMETHING ELSE: THIS BEAM THEY'RE USING TO PUSH OUR MOON OUT OF ORBIT -- IT'S A KIND OF SUPER MENTAL FORCE -- A FANTASTIC POWER FROM THEIR GOD OF EVIL FOCUSED THROUGH THE MIND OF MING.
DESTROY MING AND YOU DESTROY THE POWER.

HANS! THE HAWKMEN!

IN THE BEAMS OF MONGO'S CITY LIGHTS, AURA'S ROCKET RATTLES ONCE MORE ON ITS LAUNCH PAD...
GOOD EVENING, PRINCESS-- DID YOU HAVE A GOOD FLIGHT BACK FROM ARBORIA?
KLYTUS!

SEIZE HER!

DESPITE AURA'S PLEA, BARIN'S JEALOUSY GETS THE BETTER OF HIM...
BARIN, I'M NOT YOUR ENEMY. MING IS...
MING IS THE ENEMY OF EVERY CREATURE ON MONGO. YOU KNOW IT YOURSELF! LET'S TEAM UP AND FIGHT HIM!
LOWER THEM INTO THE SWAMP!
YOUR LOVER BARIN IS HARBORING GORDON IN ARBORIA, IS HE NOT?
NO! NO! IT'S A LIE!
I'M A PRINCESS OF THE BLOOD, KLYTUS! MY FATHER WILL HAVE YOUR HEAD FOR THIS!
I DOUBT THAT, MY CHILD... PROCEED WITH THE INTERROGATION...

THIS GAME IS SENSELESS, FICO, I'LL KILL GORDON NOW!
AND LOSE PRINCESS AURA FOREVER? I HAVE A BETTER PLAN, MY PRINCE! PUT ME INTO THE PRISONERS' CAGE!
IT'S NO USE-- I CAN'T HOLD ON...
DON'T GIVE UP, HAWKMAN!
SLEEP WELL, FICO, YOU TRAITOR. WE HANG YOU IN THE MORNING!
SHH! LOOK! I STOLE A KEY FROM THOSE FOOLS!
WE'LL NEED WEAPONS TO CROSS THE SWAMP-- THEY'RE STORED IN THE TEMPLE-- QUICKLY!

IN HIS SKY PALACE AERIE, GREAT VULTAN FEASTS WITH HIS COVEY OF HAWK-WOMEN...

SO, YOU'VE CAPTURED THE ESCAPED EARTH PEOPLE! CALL THE EMPEROR AT ONCE!
WAIT, PRINCE VULTAN! WHY TURN US OVER TO THAT MONSTER WHEN WE CAN HELP YOU DESTROY HIM! THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW--TO RALLY AGAINST HIM!
EASY TO SAY. THEY OUTNUMBER US TEN TO ONE AND HAVE SUPERIOR WEAPONS. STILL, I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT BUTCHER FALL...
WE CAN DO IT! FLASH GORDON IS ALIVE!
GORDON ALIVE?
YES! IN ARBORIA! PRINCE BARIN IS AIDING HIM! I TELL YOU, TOGETHER WE CAN BRING HIM TO HIS KNEES!
WHILE IN ARBORIA...
WHERE ARE THE WEAPONS, FICO?

FICO'S TREACHERY IS REVEALED WITH A SIGNAL FROM HIS HAND...
ALL AROUND YOU, EARTH MAN!
YOU HAVE TRESPASSED WHERE ONLY A TREEMAN MAY ENTER! A STRANGER IN OUR TEMPLE MUST TRY THE WOOD BEAST OR DIE!
VERY CLEVER, BARIN...
LET THE TEST BEGIN!
THE BEAST LIES SOMEWHERE IN THE STUMP. THERE ARE SIX PASSAGES. ONLY FIVE ARE SAFE.
GRITTING HIS TEETH, FLASH REACHES TENTATIVELY TOWARD A HOLE...
AGH!
THE BEAST HAS STRUCK!
DEATH IS CERTAIN--BUT ONLY AFTER TORTURED MADNESS.
PLEASE... END IT NOW WITH YOUR SWORD...
WITH PLEASURE...

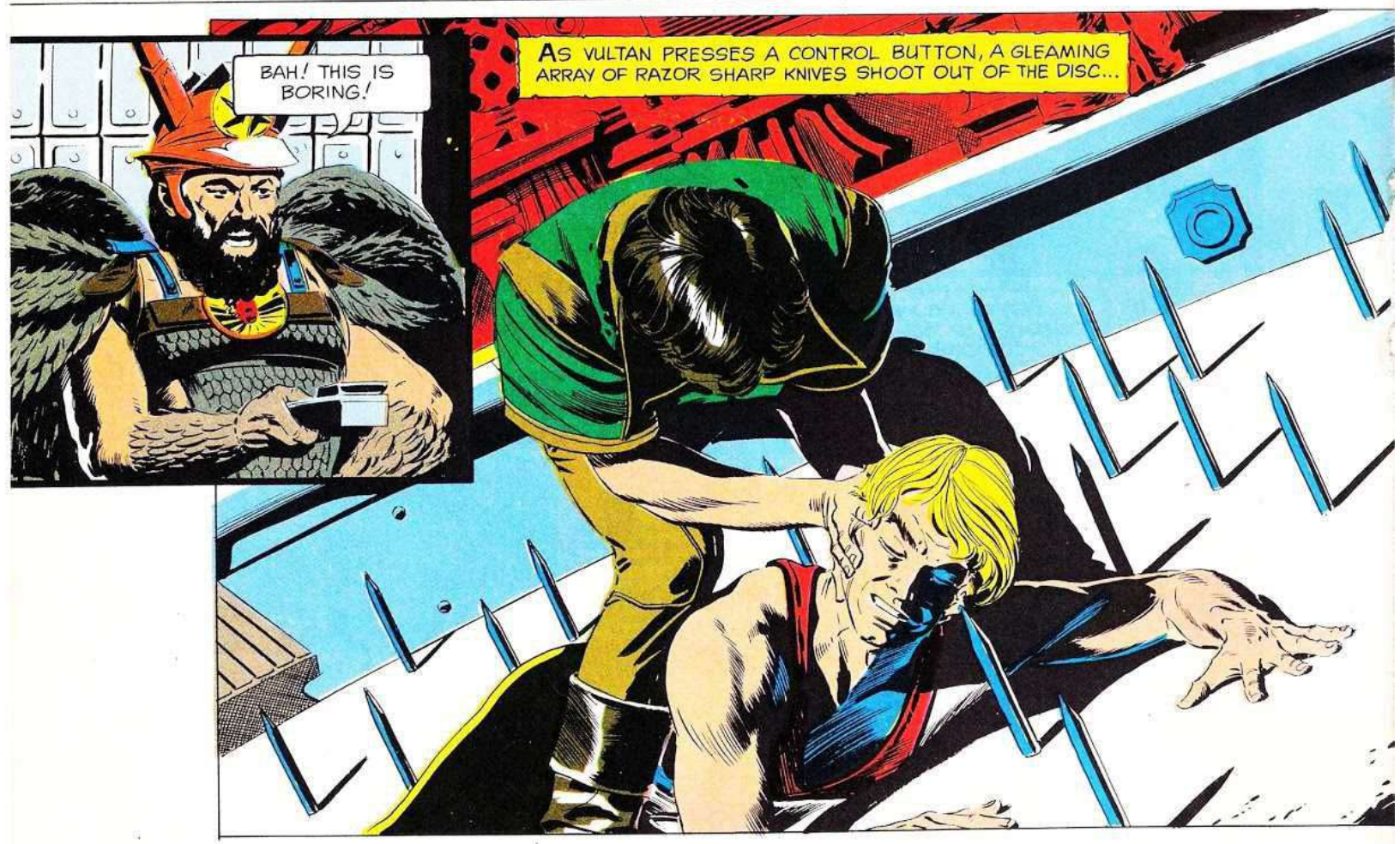
LIGHTNING QUICK, FLASH LEAPS AT THE LAST MOMENT...
ONE MOVE AND YOU'LL BE LOOKING FOR A NEW PRINCE...
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, BARIN, BUT I *FAKED* GETTING BITTEN.
IN A BLUR OF SPEED, FLASH DIVES SWIFTLY THROUGH AN OPENING IN THE TEMPLE...
IT'S A SHORT DROP TO THE GROUND NOW.
AGGGHH!
HE LANDS, NOT ON FIRM GROUND, BUT IN THE CLAWS OF A HIDEOUS SWAMP CREATURE...

STRUGGLING MIGHTILY, FLASH IS SLOWLY DRAWN INTO THE PULPY MASS OF THE MONSTER...
MUCH OBLIGED...
SUDDENLY A LASER BOLT...THE CREATURE BURSTS! FLASH IS FREE
WHOMB
DON'T MENTION IT... I COULDN'T VERY WELL LET THAT CREATURE ROB ME OF THE *PLEASURE* OF KILLING YOU *MYSELF*...

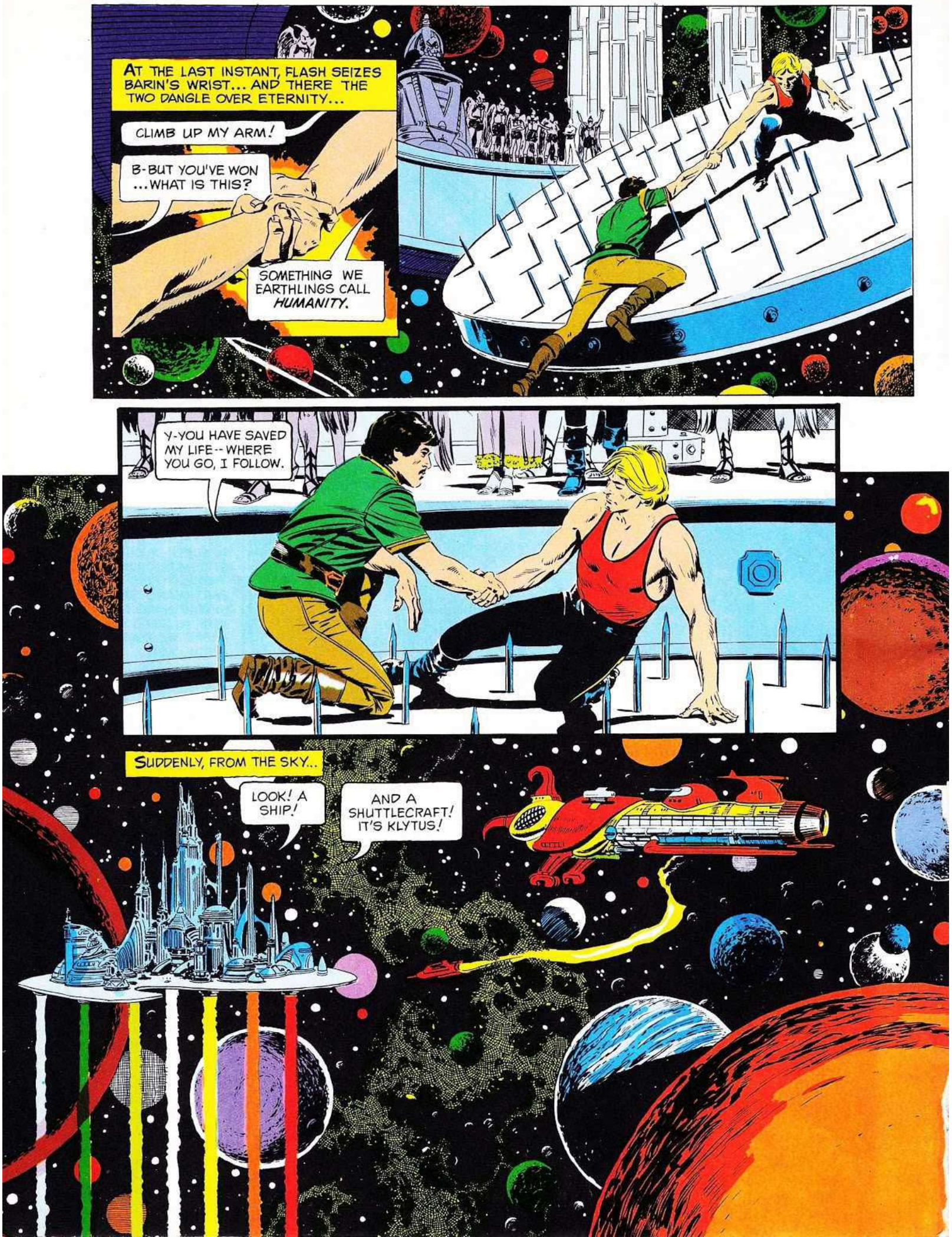
BETTER HURRY UP THEN, BARIN, THERE'S A SQUADRON OF ANGRY-LOOKING HAWKMEN RIGHT BEHIND YOU...
AN OLD TRICK, GORDON, BUT IT WON'T WORK THIS TIME!
MEANWHILE, AN IMPERIAL CRUISER STREAKS THROUGH SPACE.
IT'S GORDON AND PRINCE BARIN -- THE HAWKMEN HAVE THEM!
YES, KLYTUS -- ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED MILES EAST.

IN KING VULTAN'S SKY PALACE...
BEFORE YOU SELL US TO MING, VULTAN, I REMIND YOU OF THE EMPEROR'S LAW: NO PRINCE OF MONGO TAKEN CAPTIVE SHALL BE DEALT WITH WITHOUT FIRST BEING OFFERED THE RIGHT OF TRIAL BY COMBAT.
VERY WELL, WHOM DO YOU CHOOSE TO FIGHT?
HIM!
MINUTES LATER, FLASH AND BARIN FACE EACH OTHER ACROSS VULTAN'S BIZARRE BATTLEFIELD...
THE DISC FLOATS AND IS FASHIONED SO THAT THE ENTIRE SURFACE CAN TILT AND SWAY. YOUR OBJECTIVE IS TO SLAY YOUR OPPONENT WITHOUT SLIDING OFF THE DISC...
HEH-HEH, IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN!
LET THE COMBAT BEGIN-- TO THE DEATH!

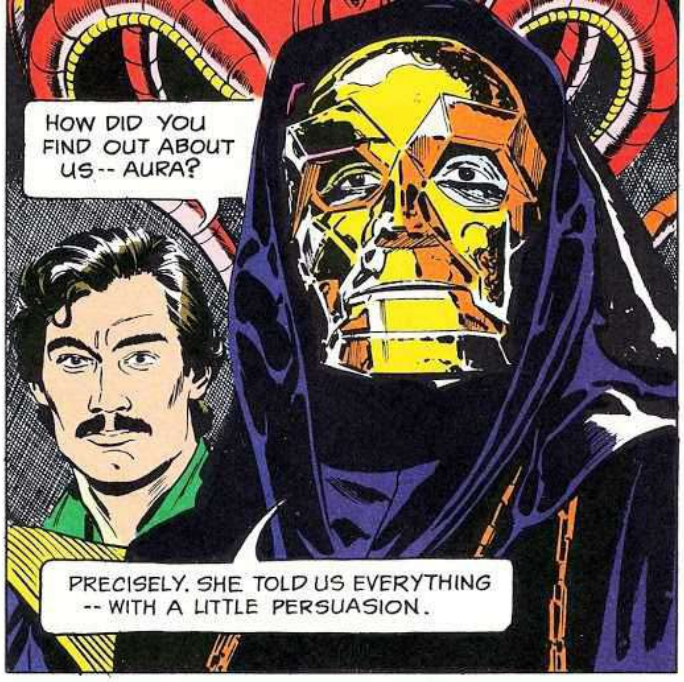
ALL OF VULTAN'S SUBJECTS HAVE GATHERED TO WATCH THE SPECTACLE -- ALSO TWO RECENT "VISITORS."
OH ZARKOV, LOOK! IT'S FLASH!
GREAT DAY!
AN OLD HAND AT THIS GAME, BARIN PRESSES HIS ATTACK SAVAGELY...
...AND QUICKLY GAINS THE ADVANTAGE...

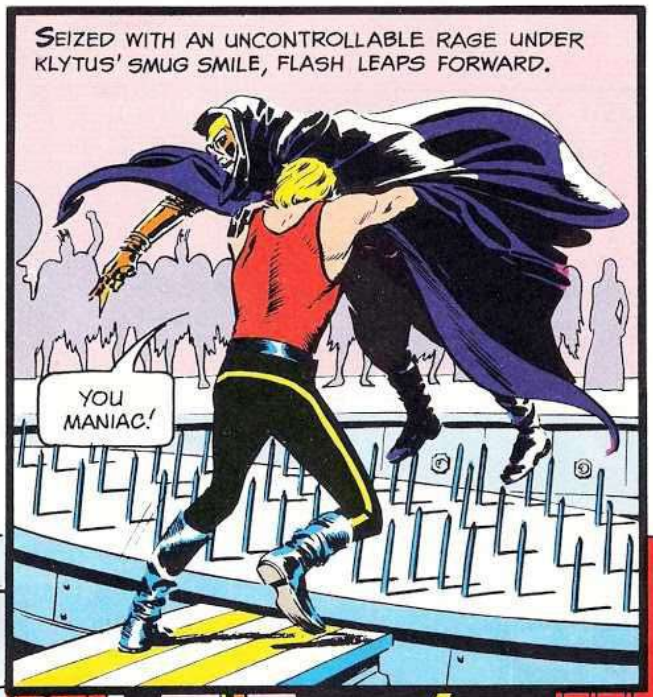

BAH! THIS IS BORING!
AS VULTAN PRESSES A CONTROL BUTTON, A GLEAMING ARRAY OF RAZOR SHARP KNIVES SHOOT OUT OF THE DISC...

FROM THE STANDS, DALE CRIES OUT IN ANGUISH...
FLASH, I LOVE YOU! WE HAVE LESS THAN TWELVE HOURS TO SAVE THE EARTH!
IT'S DALE!
AT THE SOUND OF DALE'S VOICE, A SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH COURSES THROUGH THE EARTHMAN'S STEEL-SPRING MUSCLES. WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE HE THROWS BARIN OVER.
HE'S GOING OVER!


AT THE LAST INSTANT, FLASH SEIZES BARIN'S WRIST... AND THERE THE TWO DANGLE OVER ETERNITY...
CLIMB UP MY ARM!
B-BUT YOU'VE WON ...WHAT IS THIS?
SOMETHING WE EARTHLINGS CALL *HUMANITY.*
Y-YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE--WHERE YOU GO, I FOLLOW.
SUDDENLY, FROM THE SKY...
LOOK! A SHIP!
AND A SHUTTLECRAFT! IT'S KLYTUS!

VULTAN, YOU WILL SURRENDER THESE FUGITIVES AT ONCE OR THE IMPERIAL FLEET WILL BLAST YOUR KINGDOM TO ATOMS!
PRINCE BARIN, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST ALONG WITH THESE EARTHLINGS.


HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT US-- AURA?
PRECISELY. SHE TOLD US EVERYTHING -- WITH A LITTLE PERSUASION.


SEIZED WITH AN UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE UNDER KLYTUS' SMUG SMILE, FLASH LEAPS FORWARD.
YOU MANIAC!

... AND FLINGS MING'S CHIEF INSTRUMENT OF TERROR TO HIS DEATH...

YOU YOUNG HOT-HEAD --YOU'VE BROUGHT DOWN DESTRUCTION ON MY KINGDOM!
NO, VULTAN, HE HAS SHOWN US THE WAY-- STAND WITH US AND FIGHT!

YOU'RE MAD! MY DUTY IS TO SAVE MY HAWKPEOPLE!
INTO THE AIR, MY PEOPLE! TAKE EVERYTHING YOU CAN CARRY! MING WILL ATTACK WITHIN MINUTES!
SUDDENLY, DISTANT ROARING SOUNDS FILL THE AIR. THE GROUP FREEZES, ALL EYES SKYWARD...
MING'S WAR ROCKETS!
SHALL WE BLAST THEM, SIRE?
NOT YET. SEND DOWN A SHUTTLE, BRING BACK BARIN, ZARKOV AND DALE ARDEN.
AND GORDON?
NO. PREPARE MY IMPERIAL LANDING CRAFT!
SOON...
WHY CAN'T I GO WITH THEM?
I HAVE OTHER PLANS FOR YOU!
WHAT IF I GRANTED YOU A KINGDOM. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO THAT?
AND WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

YOU'RE A HERO TO THE PEOPLE -- YOU'VE SURVIVED EVERY PERIL OF MONGO -- YOUR NAME IS WHISPERED IN THE STREETS -- YOU EVEN SLEW THE DREADED KLYTUS -- WHO BETTER THAN YOU TO RULE A KINGDOM?
YOU'D CALL OFF THE ATTACK ON EARTH?
AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES AND TIDAL WAVES, THE PEOPLE OF EARTH WON'T BE QUITE THE HUMAN BEINGS YOU REMEMBER. THEY'LL BE MORE TRACTABLE -- EASIER FOR YOU TO RULE IN THE NAME OF MING.
YOU MEAN SLAVES. AND WHAT ABOUT DALE?
SHE'S EXCEPTIONAL. I WILL MARRY HER AND SEND OUR IMPERIAL PROGENY BACK TO POPULATE YOUR EARTH...
YOU ARE MAD...
THEN YOUR ANSWER IS NO... PITY, I'D RATHER SEE YOU ON MY SIDE THAN SCATTERED TO ATOMS...
BUT SO BE IT. GUARDS! WE'LL RETURN TO THE IMPERIAL ROCKET -- LEAVE THE EARTHLING HERE, TO HIS DOOM.
ONLY SECONDS AFTER THE IMPERIAL LANDING CRAFT DEPARTS...
UNDER THE CONTINUAL BARRAGE, THE BEAMS OF LIGHT WHICH SUPPORT THE WONDROUS STRUCTURE SHUDDER AND GO OUT... THE MIGHTY PALACE BEGINS TO FALL...

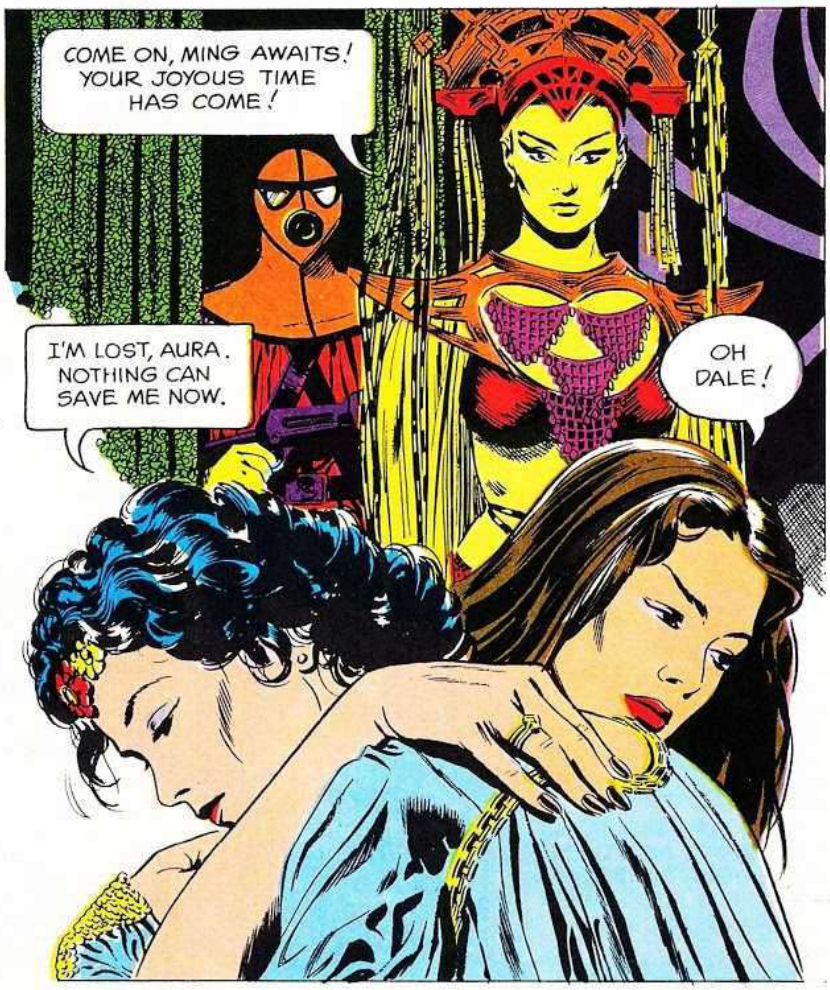
DON'T KNOW WHAT THESE THINGS ARE BUT THEY'RE MY ONLY HOPE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE...
DESPERATELY, FLASH TRIES TO START THE STRANGE DEVICE WHILE THE FLOOR OF THE CRUMBLING SKY PALACE BUCKS AND HEAVES BENEATH HIM...
IT'S GOING--BUT WILL IT BE IN TIME?
FALLING, FALLING, CAREENING EVER MORE WILDLY, THE DYNAMOS IN THE HEART OF THE PALACE EXPAND AND STRAIN UNTIL...

WITH DALE, ZARKOV, AND PRINCE BARIN HIS PRISONERS, MING RETURNS TO MINGO CITY.
DUSK ON PLANET ARBORIA. THE HAWKPEOPLE SIT PERCHED AMONG THE TREES THINKING SOMBER THOUGHTS ABOUT THEIR ONCE MAGNIFICENT HOME, RENT TO SPACE DUST NOW BY MING'S DEADLY WARSHIPS...
AMONG THE CHIEF MOURNERS ARE PRINCE VULTAN AND HIS 1ST LIEUTENANT, LURO...
THEY WERE BRAVE CREATURES, VULTAN. THE MAN WHO RID US OF KLYTUS SHOULDN'T BE DESERTED.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT! PERHAPS I'D DO IT DIFFERENTLY IF I HAD IT TO DO OVER! BUT I DON'T! GORDON'S DEAD!
FLASH GORDON TO VULTAN -- DO YOU READ ME! MAYDAY-- MAYDAY!
THE COMMUNICATOR! IT'S GORDON!
FLASH! YOU'RE ALIVE! WHERE ARE YOU?
FLYING BLIND ON A ROCKET CYCLE! MING'S GOT DALE AND ZARKOV AND BARIN! CAN YOU GIVE ME LANDING COORDINATES?
WHILE IN THE CITY OF MINGO...
BANNERS AND POSTERS DISPLAY THE IMAGE OF THE FUTURE EMPRESS-- DALE ARDEN!

IN THE PALACE BEDCHAMBER, DALE ARDEN AND PRINCESS AURA WAIT--BRIDE AND BRIDESMAID...
HOW CAN I SAY I'M SORRY, DALE, OR EXPECT YOU TO ACCEPT MY APOLOGY? I'VE BEEN SUCH A SPOILED FOOL. I NEVER KNEW WHAT MY FATHER WAS UNTIL HE STOOD BY WHILE I WAS TORTURED.
IT DOESN'T MATTER... I'VE GIVEN MING MY WORD TO TRY TO BE A GOOD WIFE IF HE'D SPARE DR. ZARKOV AND BARIN. HE VOWED HE WOULD...

MY FATHER HAS NEVER KEPT A VOW IN HIS LIFE!


COME ON, MING AWAITS! YOUR JOYOUS TIME HAS COME!
I'M LOST, AURA. NOTHING CAN SAVE ME NOW.
OH DALE!

WHILE HIGH AMONG THE SKIES OF MONGO, FLASH GORDON ROCKETS TOWARD THE GLISTENING SPIRES OF MINGO CITY.
AND AT MING'S BATTLE CONTROL STATION...
FLASH GORDON APPROACHING?
YES, GENERAL KALA-- ON A HAWKMAN ROCKET CYCLE.
FIRE WHEN HE IS IN RANGE.

AS LIGHTNING BOLTS RIP THE AIR FLASH TWISTS THE BUCKING CYCLE INTO A GET-AWAY ZOOM...

ATTENTION ALL WEDDING GUESTS. WHILE YOU AWAIT THE CEREMONY, ALL PALACE SCREENS WILL DISPLAY FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT-- THE EXECUTION OF THE TRAITORS, BARIN AND ZARKOV.

BUT PRINCESS AURA HAS MANAGED TO ELUDE HER GUARDS AND SNEAK TO THE ROYAL DUNGEON. SLIPPING THROUGH THE DOOR SHE BLASTS THE PALACE MONITORING SYSTEM...
AND QUICKLY FREES BARIN AND ZARKOV.
AURA!
BE STILL-- THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME!
MEANWHILE, PURSUED BY AN IMPERIAL BATTLE ROCKET--
--FLASH ATTEMPTS TO HIDE HIMSELF IN A CLOUD-BANK...
AND AS THE SHIP ENTERS THE CLOUDS...
REDUCE VELOCITY. CHARGE CAPACITATORS TO ELECTRIFY THE CLOUD AND PREPARE THE SKYNETS TO CATCH GORDON'S BODY.

A GIANT CHARGE OF VOLTAGE FROM THE WARSHIP'S CAPACITATORS ELECTRIFIES THE CLOUD.
FLASH BREAKS THROUGH THE TOP OF THE SEETHING CLOUD SECONDS BEFORE IT IGNITES...

OUR TRAP-PLAY WORKED! THEY'LL BE UNDER US IN FIFTY SECONDS!
ALL LEADERS -- DIVE ON MY SIGNAL!
HAWKMEN! TWELVE O'CLOCK HIGH! DIVING!
ARM TOPSIDE!
BUT ALREADY FLASH AND THE HAWKMEN SWOOP DOWN LIKE AVENGING ANGELS, LANDING ON THE MIDSECTION OF THE BATTLE ROCKET...

REPEL BOARDERS!
HATCHES SPRING OPEN--WARRIORS LEAP OUT--THROUGH THE SWIRLING FOG, LIT HELLISHLY BY THE FLASHES OF LASER-FIRE AND GRENADES, MING'S SOLDIERS AND VULTAN'S HAWKMEN ENGAGE IN THE MOST FANTASTIC AERIAL COMBAT EVER WAGED IN THE UNIVERSE!
FLASH AND LT. BIRO BATTLE THEIR WAY AFT WHILE VULTAN AND THE OTHERS HOLD OFF THE TROOPS AHEAD...

A STREAM OF FIRE FROM MING'S SOLDIERS HALTS THE CHARGE AND PINS BOTH MEN DOWN TO THE DECK...
COVER ME WHILE I CRAWL TO THAT EXHAUST PORT!
YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT... GIVE ME YOUR BOMB!
FLASH QUICKLY MOLDS THE PLASTIC EXPLOSIVE INTO A ROUGH, FOOTBALL-SHAPED MISSILE...
...AND HURLS IT WITH ALL HIS MIGHTY STRENGTH!
THE PORT ERUPTS IN A BLAZE OF FIRE AND SMOKE...
...BLASTING AN ENTRANCE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BATTLE ROCKET. THROUGH THIS FLASH LEADS HIS WINGED INVADERS...
FORWARD TO VICTORY!

FOLLOW THIS TUNNEL AND YOU'LL ARRIVE AT SECRET POLICE HEADQUARTERS... I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO THE WEDDING OR I'LL BE SHOT!
I AM NOT THE MAN I USED TO BE, AURA. CAN YOU STILL LOVE ME?
I DON'T KNOW...WE'LL TRY...
AURA PAUSES A MOMENT-- UNCERTAIN-- THEN WHIRLS--
NOW HURRY! I'VE GOT TO GO!

MEANWHILE, FLASH AND VULTAN HAVE OVERPOWERED THE CREW OF THE BATTLE ROCKET...

AUTO-PILOT ON!

EVERYBODY-- TAKE OFF! BATTLE FORMATION BEHIND THE ROCKET, FLASH AND I WILL BAIL OUT WHEN THE SHOOTING STARTS!

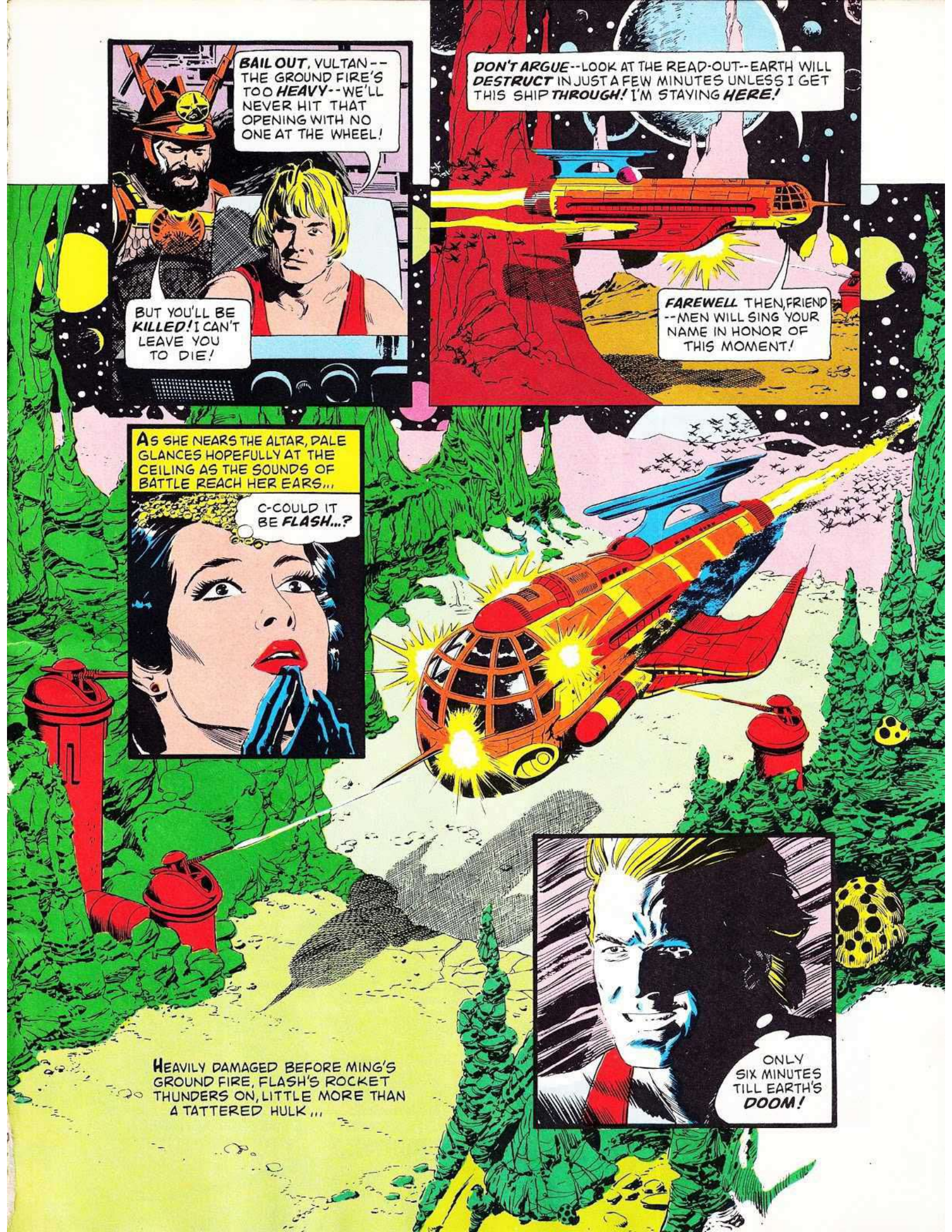
LEVEL WITH ME, VULTAN-- WILL THIS DO THE TRICK?

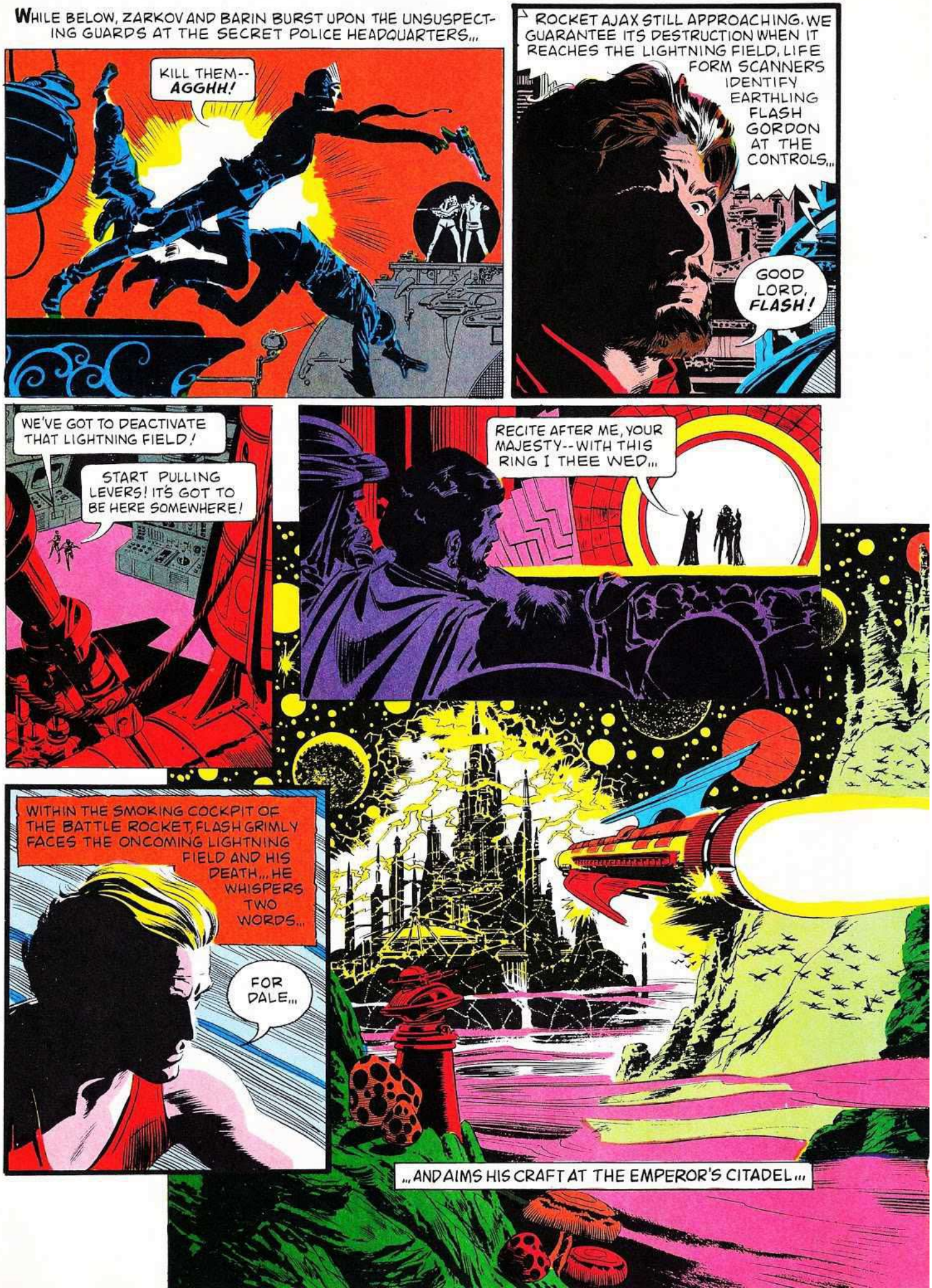
YES, IT SHOULD, THERE'S A LIGHTNING FIELD ACROSS THE PALACE ENTRANCE-- WHEN THIS SHIP HITS IT-- BOOM! IT'LL BLOW THE FIELD DEAD! MY HAWKMEN CAN FLY RIGHT IN.

AT MING'S PALACE, THE WEDDING CEREMONY BEGINS...

OH FLASH ...IT COULD HAVE BEEN US...

EYES GLOWING EVILLY, MING THE MERCILESS APPROACHES WITH SMUG ANTICIPATION HIS BEAUTIFUL BRIDE-TO-BE.
WHILE OUTSIDE, THE CITY SPARKLES AND FLARES WITH LASER FIRE --
--AS FLASH'S BATTLE ROCKET DESCENDS BEFORE A STREAM OF SWOOPING HAWKMEN...

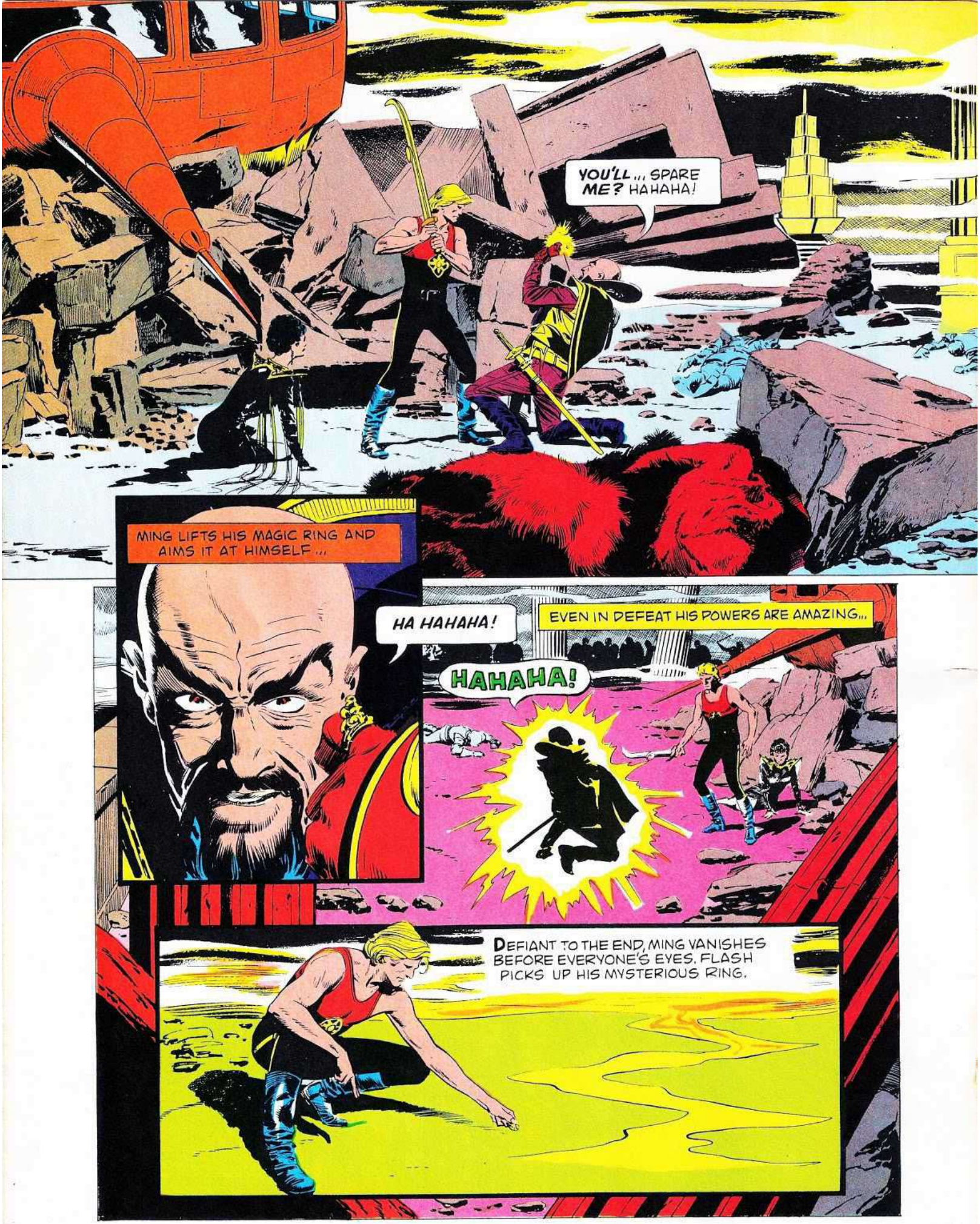

BAIL OUT, VULTAN -- THE GROUND FIRE'S TOO HEAVY -- WE'LL NEVER HIT THAT OPENING WITH NO ONE AT THE WHEEL!
BUT YOU'LL BE KILLED! I CAN'T LEAVE YOU TO DIE!
DON'T ARGUE -- LOOK AT THE READ-OUT -- EARTH WILL DESTRUCT IN JUST A FEW MINUTES UNLESS I GET THIS SHIP THROUGH! I'M STAYING HERE!
FAREWELL THEN, FRIEND -- MEN WILL SING YOUR NAME IN HONOR OF THIS MOMENT!
AS SHE NEARS THE ALTAR, DALE GLANCES HOPEFULLY AT THE CEILING AS THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE REACH HER EARS...
C-COULD IT BE FLASH...?
ONLY SIX MINUTES TILL EARTH'S DOOM!
HEAVILY DAMAGED BEFORE MING'S GROUND FIRE, FLASH'S ROCKET THUNDERS ON, LITTLE MORE THAN A TATTERED HULK...


WHILE BELOW, ZARKOV AND BARIN BURST UPON THE UNSUSPECTING GUARDS AT THE SECRET POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
KILL THEM-- AGGHH!
ROCKET AJAX STILL APPROACHING. WE GUARANTEE ITS DESTRUCTION WHEN IT REACHES THE LIGHTNING FIELD, LIFE FORM SCANNERS IDENTIFY EARTHLING FLASH GORDON AT THE CONTROLS...
GOOD LORD, FLASH!
WE'VE GOT TO DEACTIVATE THAT LIGHTNING FIELD!
START PULLING LEVERS! IT'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!
RECITE AFTER ME, YOUR MAJESTY--WITH THIS RING I THEE WED...
WITHIN THE SMOKING COCKPIT OF THE BATTLE ROCKET, FLASH GRIMLY FACES THE ONCOMING LIGHTNING FIELD AND HIS DEATH... HE WHISPERS TWO WORDS...
FOR DALE...
...AND AIMS HIS CRAFT AT THE EMPEROR'S CITADEL...

--AS THE SHIP ENTERS MING'S DEADLY DEFENSE SYSTEM...
IT'S USELESS -- USELESS! WITHOUT THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF DIALS WE CAN'T SHUT DOWN THE FIELD!
STAND BACK, DOCTOR -- THERE'S ONE SURE WAY TO SHUT IT DOWN...
ABRUPTLY, THE LIGHTNING FIELD WINKS OUT--

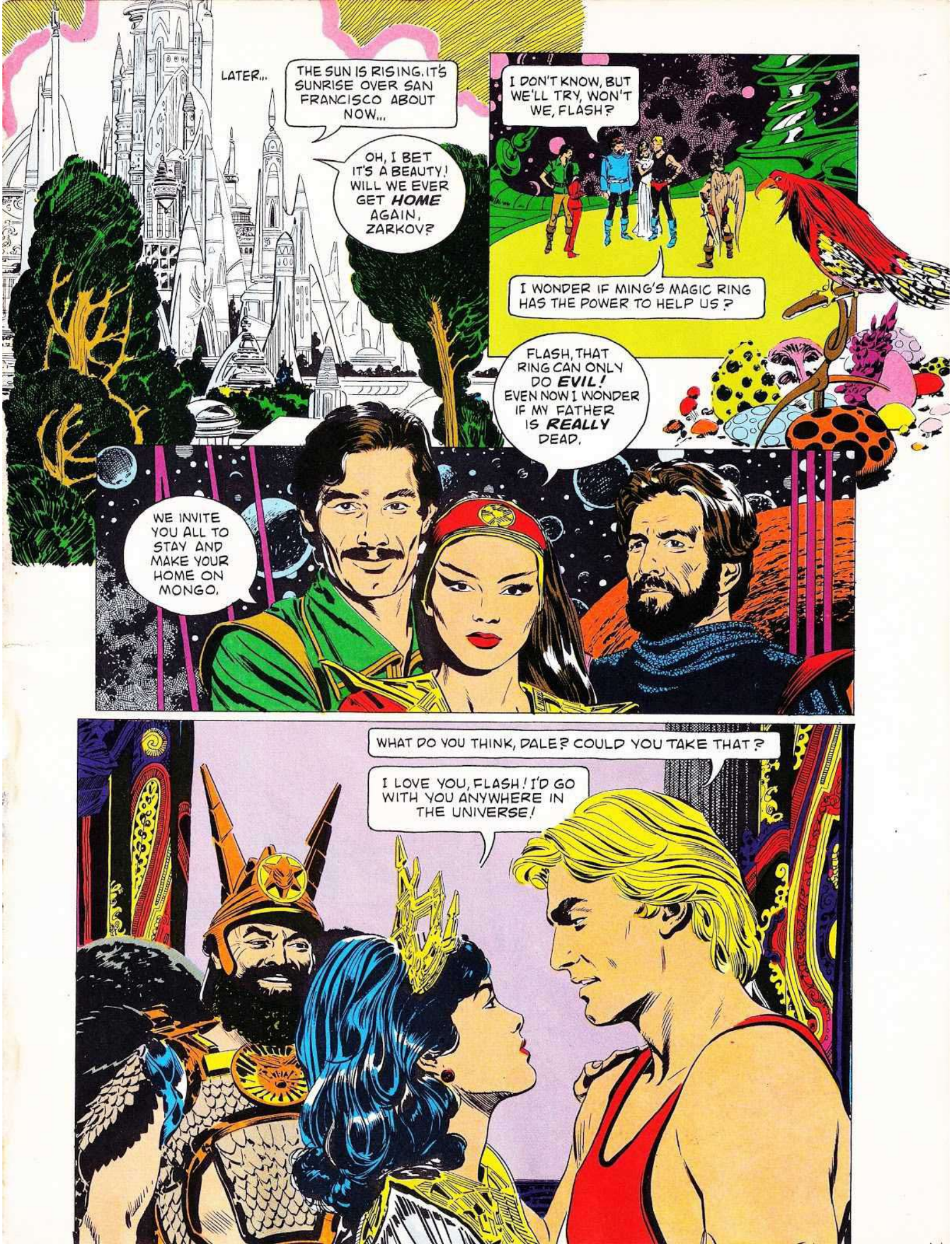
THERE IS AN EAR-SPLITTING SCREECH OF TEARING METAL, SHATTERING GLASS AND TOPPLING STONES AS THE ROCKET CRASHES...
AND EMPEROR MING IS IMPALED ON THE SPEAR-LIKE PROW AS THE ROCKET SHUDDERS TO A HALT.

BUT THE EMPEROR IS NOT DEAD. A SINISTER FORCE KEEPS HIM ALIVE AND HE WORKS HIS WAY FREE.
THE GAME IS LOST, MING! CALL OFF YOUR ATTACK ON EARTH AND I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE!
FLASH, DARLING! YOU'RE ALIVE!


YOU'LL ... SPARE ME? HAHAHA!
MING LIFTS HIS MAGIC RING AND AIMS IT AT HIMSELF ...
HA HAHAHA!
EVEN IN DEFEAT HIS POWERS ARE AMAZING...
HAHAHA!
DEFIANT TO THE END, MING VANISHES BEFORE EVERYONE'S EYES. FLASH PICKS UP HIS MYSTERIOUS RING.

FLASH! YOU DID IT! THE REACTORS HAVE STOPPED! EARTH IS SAVED!
BUT SUDDENLY...
FLASH! LOOK OUT! THE GLOBE!
WHAT DOES IT WANT?
HOW CURIOUS! WHAT CONTROLS IT NOW?
HAIL FLASH GORDON!
PRINCE BARIN IS THE RIGHTFUL HEIR! HAIL BARIN! KING OF MONGO!

IMMEDIATELY, THE NEWLY ACCLAIMED KING OF MONGO MAKES HIS APPEARANCE,
WE OWE IT ALL TO FLASH GORDON!
THE PEOPLE ECHO THEIR KING'S WORDS...
HAIL FLASH GORDON!
WE APPOINT VULTAN GENERAL OF OUR ARMIES! FROM THIS DAY ON, LET EVERY RACE OF MONGO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE!


LATER...
THE SUN IS RISING. IT'S SUNRISE OVER SAN FRANCISCO ABOUT NOW...
OH, I BET IT'S A BEAUTY! WILL WE EVER GET HOME AGAIN, ZARKOV?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE'LL TRY, WON'T WE, FLASH?
I WONDER IF MING'S MAGIC RING HAS THE POWER TO HELP US?
FLASH, THAT RING CAN ONLY DO EVIL! EVEN NOW I WONDER IF MY FATHER IS REALLY DEAD.
WE INVITE YOU ALL TO STAY AND MAKE YOUR HOME ON MONGO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DALE? COULD YOU TAKE THAT?
I LOVE YOU, FLASH! I'D GO WITH YOU ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE!

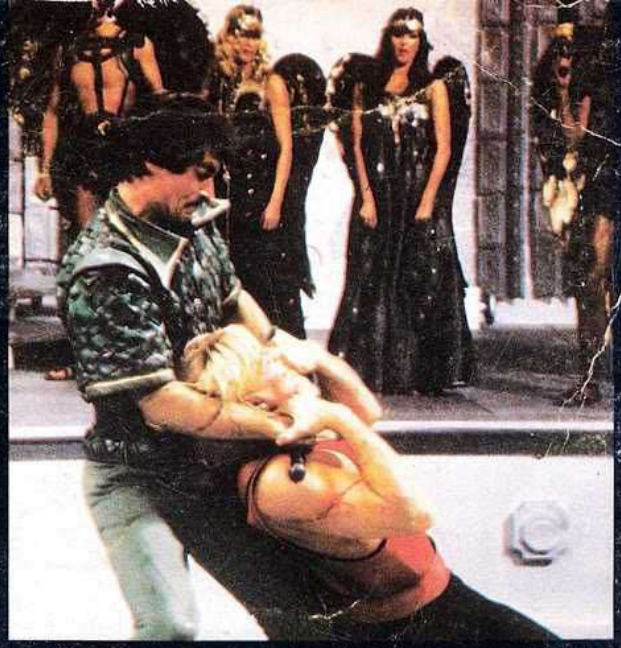
Nearly fifty years ago Flash Gordon crash-landed on the Planet Mongo. The heroic "Yale graduate and renowned polo player" first crossed swords with Mongo's ruthless tyrant, Ming the Merciless on January 7, 1934 in the pages of King Features Syndicate's Sunday Comic Supplement. Flash, together with his companions and allies, Dr. Zarkov, Dale Arden and Prince Barin of Arboria, have continued their crusade against Ming and his craven henchmen ever since in an extraordinary range of media. Mongo has been portrayed in comic books, novels, radio dramas, a television series and, of course, those classic movie serials which once played the neighborhood movie houses every Saturday afternoon. This Flash Gordon mini-industry sprang from the fertile imagination and talented pen of Alex Raymond. The amazing versatility and adaptability of the Flash Gordon story is a tribute to the richness of Raymond's original version. Raymond's classically precise and crisp style has been endlessly imitated but never matched. Born in 1909 and encouraged by his family to nurture his great talent, Raymond landed a staff job at King Features Syndicate at a fortuitous moment. In the early 1930's the syndicate was casting about in search of a "space strip" with which to challenge "Buck Rogers," the reigning science fantasy strip of the day. Raymond went after the assignment and King added "Flash Gordon" to its Sunday Comic Supplement in the first week of 1934. It was an instant, overwhelming success.

Raymond drew the strip for King until 1944 when he relinquished it to his assistant Austin Briggs, and served in the Pacific as a combat artist with the Marine Corps. Returning from the war, Raymond devoted his energies to the creation of "Rip Kirby", a highly original police strip. In 1956, at the height of his fame, Alex Raymond was fatally injured in a car accident near his Connecticut home. Flash Gordon remains the most durable creation of this most versatile of artists.

In Flash Gordon, the Movie, Flash continues his heroic struggle against the demonic tyranny of Ming. To guarantee authenticity, Dino DeLaurentiis has returned to the source and recreated episodes from Raymond's original story of January, 1934. And so, after nearly fifty years, the grand vision of Alex Raymond comes full circle. Hail Flash Gordon! May he live another fifty years.

EASY, KID. MAYBE IT'S ALL JUST A BAD DREAM!

AND IF IT ISN'T?



BUT TO THE *ASTONISHMENT* OF THE CROWD, THIS EARTH MAN DOES NOT COWER IN TERROR... QUITE THE *CONTRARY*...

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO ME?

EMPTYING YOUR MIND, DOCTOR...

ZARKOV!

THROUGH THE CIRCULAR WINDOW, FLASH WITNESSES A SIGHT IN THE PALACE LABORATORY THAT FREEZES HIS BLOOD...

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